STORY AND ART BY
OH!GREAT
3
Tenjo Tenge
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

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2
3
4
5
MITSUOMI TAKAYANAGI

MANA KUZUNOHA

TENJO TENGE

TEN NO TENGE

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FIGHT:27

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HAAH!
WH
OSH
COME ON, GET A CLUE.
NOBODY LIKES A GIRL WHO WON'T LET UP.
YOU'RE INVADING MY PERSONAL SPACE, GET IT?
*PON IS A MAHJONG TERM
PON!!
BASH

...!!
THAT ASS-HOLE!
ZSH
SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT AND NAIL HIM WITH A PUNCH ALREADY!
GAH
COME ON!
MAYA!
YOU'RE PUTTIN' THE PEANUT GALLERY TO SLEEP HERE!
!!
WELL, WELL.
...
!!

ISN'T THIS A PLEASURE.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO MEET YOU SO SOON.
THAT SPEECH OF YOURS WAS PRETTY SWEET.
YOU SURE ARE ONE AWESOME DUDE.
NOT AS AWESOME AS YOUR CRAZY MOVES.
OH, TODAY'S MY LUCKY DAY. I SEE YOUR BROWN-NOSING BUDDY MITSUOMI'S HERE TOO.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D GOTTEN INTO TODO AS WELL.
BEEN A LONG TIME. ♡
!!
TWITCH
DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE YOU KNOW ME.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ANYWAY?
STATE YOUR NAME.
...!!
OKAY, FINE.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN ON THE RADAR OF THE GREAT MASAHIRO SANADA, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "RED MAHJONG JUNKY."
But here I am introducing myself.
THE ONE I'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH IS HER BIG BROTHER HERE.

I ONLY HAVE ONE QUESTION FOR YOU.
ARE YOU THE ONE GOING AFTER THE KATANA MEMBERS?
AND WHAT IF I AM?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
WHEN YOU COME BACK IN YOUR NEXT LIFE YOU CAN TRY AGAIN.
BALDY.
BSHT
!!

Oh...
Uuh!
You fucker...
FORGETTING SOMETHING, RED JUNKY, OR WHATEVER YOU CALLED YOURSELF?
THIS FIGHT'S NOT OVER YET.
IF YOU WON'T BRING IT, I WILL.
W...
Wait...
SWING
POOMF
...!!
OH! ♡
LILILIH ...

BAM
Yo, today!
Face goin', today!
You can still hear more on my day!
OOPS.
I SHOWED A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
YES!
Yeah!!

YOU GOTTA DO BETTER THAN THAT NEXT TIME.
NOOGIE
SHUT UP!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME WATCH ME FOR EVERY FIGHT, YOU KNOW!
Lay off
STRAIN
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME.
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
BLOOP
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
SOMEBODY!
QUICK!

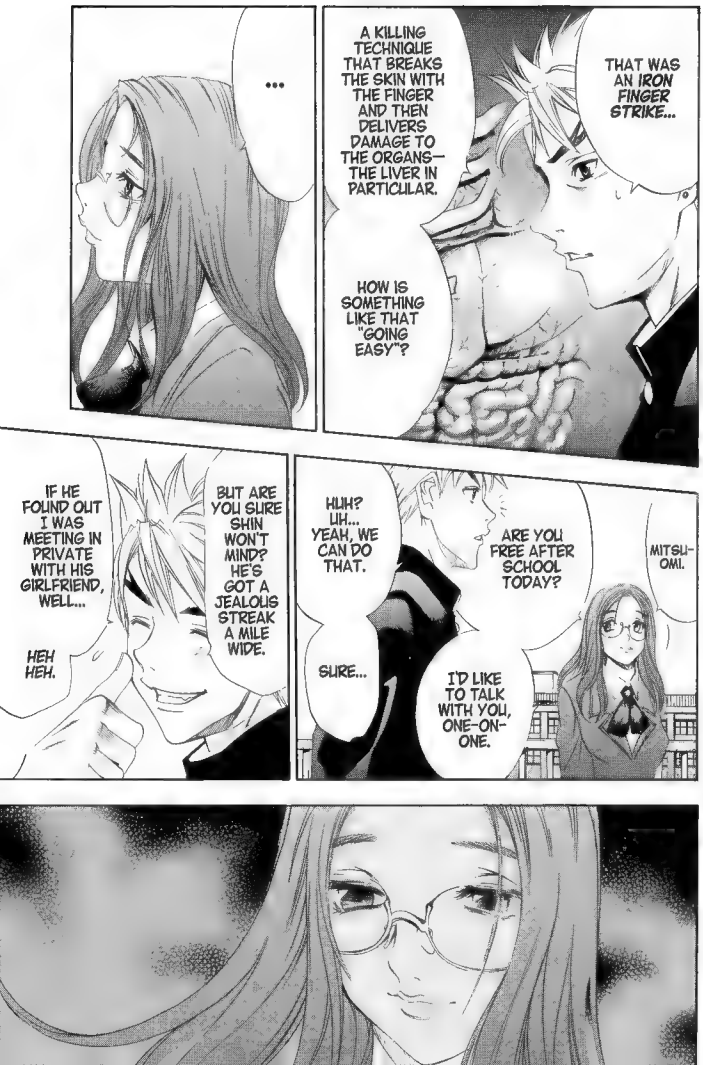
THIS KID...
...IS DYING.
MURMUR
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
HURRY UP!
WE MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM!
UH...
RIGHT!
PLINK
THAT WON'T ...
...BE NECES-SARY.

SWF
KUZUNOHA ACUPUNC-TURE.
BONE REALIGN-MENT TECH-NIQUE.

THUNK
THUNK THUNK
KUZU-NOHA ...?
OH...
NOW IF WE CAN JUST CLOSE HIS STOMACH WOUND, HE'LL BE FINE.
SOMEBODY PLEASE TAKE HIM TO THE NURSE.
YOU WON'T GET VERY FAR AT THIS SCHOOL IF YOU LET LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS FREAK YOU OUT.
MITSU-OMI.

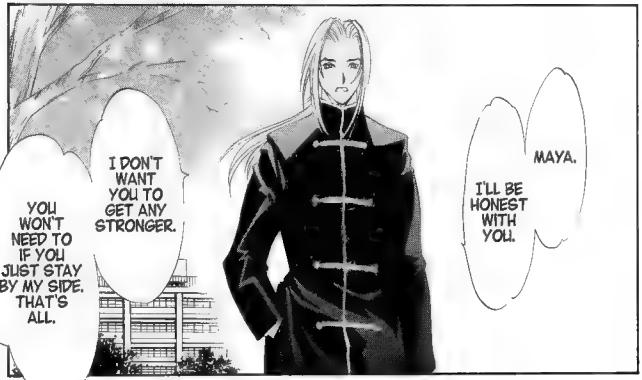
TH-THANKS... AND GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
MANA KUZUNOHA.
YOU'RE SHIN'S GIRLFRIEND... RIGHT?

IT'S OKAY.
SHIN WENT EASY ON THE KID.
EVEN WITHOUT ME, IF HE'D BEEN TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO REAL THREAT TO HIS LIFE.
BUT...!


THAT WAS AN IRON FINGER STRIKE...
A KILLING TECHNIQUE THAT BREAKS THE SKIN WITH THE FINGER AND THEN DELIVERS DAMAGE TO THE ORGANS— THE LIVER IN PARTICULAR.
HOW IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT "GOING EASY"?
...
MITSU-OMI.
ARE YOU FREE AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?
I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU, ONE-ON-ONE.
HUH? UH... YEAH, WE CAN DO THAT.
SURE...
BUT ARE YOU SURE SHIN WON'T MIND? HE'S GOT A JEALOUS STREAK A MILE WIDE.
IF HE FOUND OUT I WAS MEETING IN PRIVATE WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND, WELL...
HEH HEH.

WELL, I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU.
YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT STRONGER.
BUT YOUR TECHNIQUES ARE STILL LACKING.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, THEY'RE OKAY FOR TAKING ON JUNIOR HIGH KIDS.
BUT FIRST YOU MUST REMEMBER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FALSEHOOD AND TRUTH.
THAT'S ENOUGH, SHIN.
HEY, THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF I'M TELLING YOU.
IF YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR WAY IN THIS SCHOOL, THEN...
I SAID THAT'S ENOUGH!
QUIT TREATING ME LIKE A LITTLE KID.
WHY'D YOU STEP IN TO HELP ME OUT?
YOU THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE?

I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.

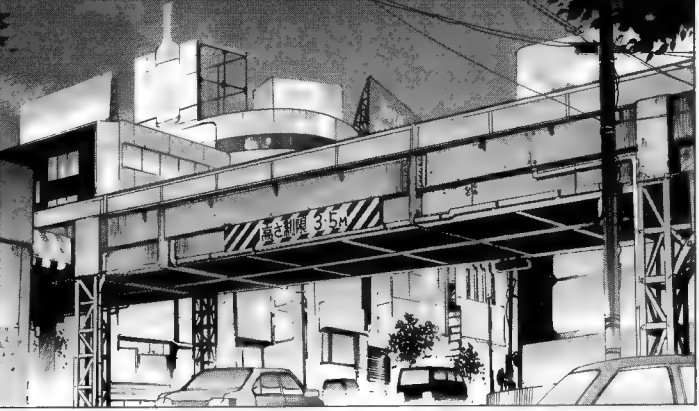

MAYA.
I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET ANY STRONGER.
YOU WON'T NEED TO IF YOU JUST STAY BY MY SIDE. THAT'S ALL.

SO...
ALWAYS ...

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
HM?
SHIN.
NEVER MIND.
NO.

IT SURE IS DARK.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE ANYWAY?
GOTTA FIND A LIGHT SWITCH...
TOUCH
MANA.
WHERE ARE YOU, MANA?

PUT SOME-THING ON...!
IS EVEN SOMEONE AS STRONG AS YOU...
...AFRAID OF SHIN?


高さ制限 3.5M

TMP
TMP

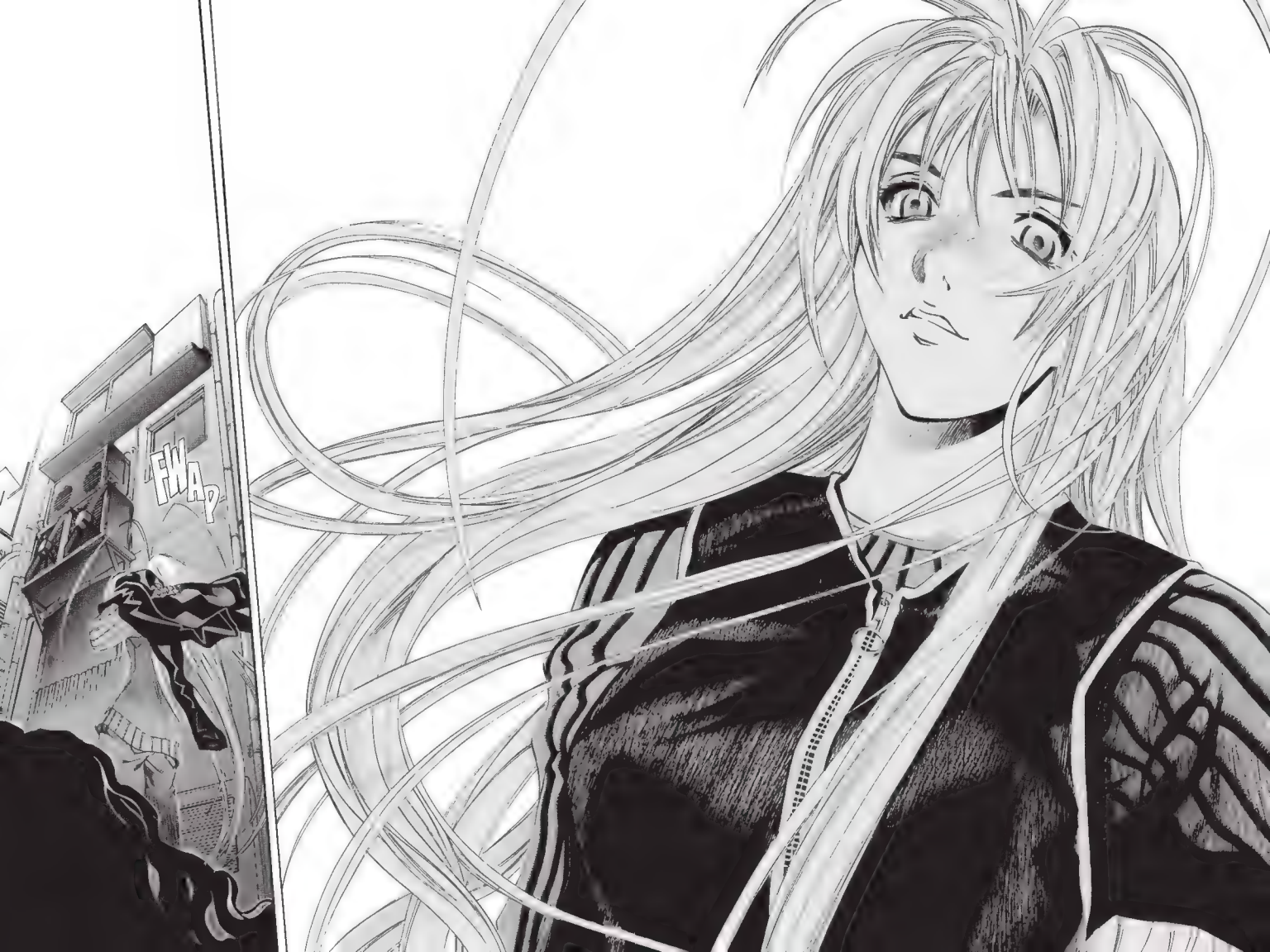
THEY'RE A WEIRD PAIR.
SHIN AND MAYA.
TMP

I THINK THIS IS FAR ENOUGH, DON'T YOU? HOW LONG YOU PLAN ON TAILING ME...
...KATANA HUNTER?
HEY.
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE RELATED ...
...IT'S MORE LIKE...
THEY'RE LIKE A COUPLE...
...MADLY IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER.
AH...
OOH.
I, THE GREAT ISHIMATSU, LEADER OF THE KATANA SPECIAL ATTACK CORPS WILL—
WHOK
YOW!

AAH!
CREAK
AH!
CREAK
CREAK
KRACK
BASH
BANG
GWAH!
OOF!
YOU SAID IT WAS A... KILLING TECHNIQUE.
CREAK
WELL... IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT WITH HIM.
WHEN IT COMES TO MAYA, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.
CREAK
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME...
...WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE ...
...HE'D HAVE KILLED ALREADY.

THOK
GRAB
KAH!
KAAH!
SLIP
HNGH!
DO YOU...
...DESPISE ME FOR THIS?
NO.
...
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?


FWAP

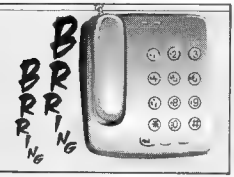
MEEEW
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
MITSU-OMI...
WE'RE BOTH...
...COMMITTING THIS CRIME TOGETHER.

FIGHT:28

SHWK
SHWK
CAN I HELP OUT?
NAH, I GOT IT.
IT'S ACTUALLY KINDA DANGEROUS IN HERE SO YOU BETTER STAY BACK.
POP POP
SHISHISHISHI
OKAY.
...

FWA
IT SURE SMELLS GOOD IN THERE.
I CAN'T WAIT TO EAT WHAT YOU'RE COOKING UP.
FWA
FWA

...HAVE A TASTE OF ME FIRST?
OR WOULD YOU RATHER ...
I'M PUTTING EVERY-THING I HAVE INTO MAKING THIS MEAL.
JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES. ♡
OH, YES.
OF COURSE.

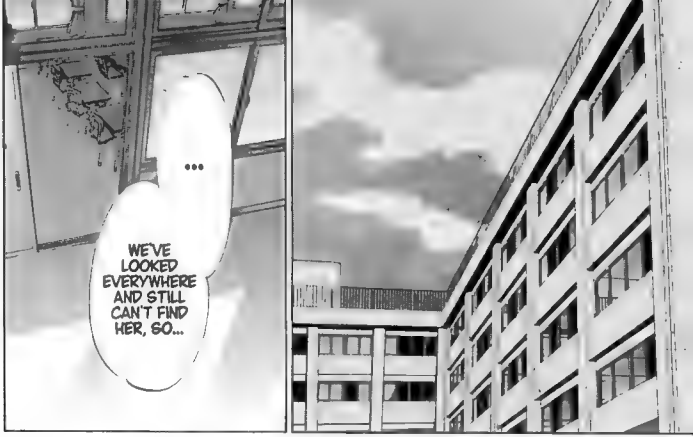

BRRING
BRRING
BRRING

HELLO, TAKA-YANAGI RESIDENCE.
OH, DAD?
WHAT?

GAH HAHAHA
ROLL ROLL ROLL
?
PFFT! AS IF!!
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP SLAP

SORRY, BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL BE HOME TONIGHT.
!!
SEEMS THE CLIENT WE'RE ENTERTAINING WANTS TO PLAY MAHJONG ALL NIGHT.
THERE'S ...
...NOBODY HERE AT ALL.
WELL. S-SEE YOU TOMORROW.
HUH?
UH... NO, OF COURSE NOT.
SO YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE YOUR OWN BREAK-FAST...
HM?
IS SOME-ONE THERE WITH YOU?
...
BEEP
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK

SNEEEAK
...
UH... LATE.
WHAT TIME WILL YOUR DAD BE HOME TONIGHT?
KCLICK
I REALLY AM...
...LOOKING FORWARD TO...
...TONIGHT. ♡
YEAH?
GUSH
GUSH
GUSH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


...
WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE AND STILL CAN'T FIND HER, SO...

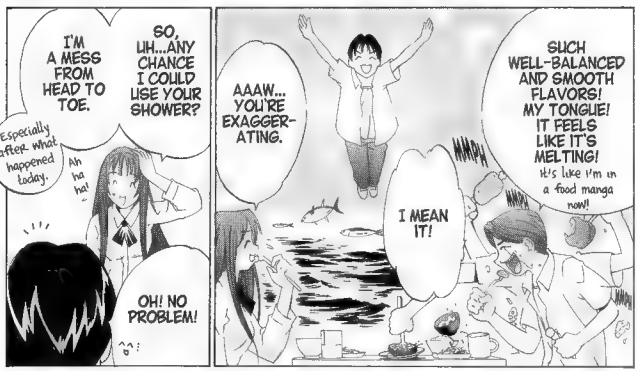
IF THE REIKI SHOULD ACTIVATE BY CHANCE, YOU'D BE COMPLETELY HELPLESS ON YOUR OWN.
SHALL I LEND YOU SOME MEN?
...

...IT CAN ONLY MEAN SHE'S NOT AT SCHOOL ANYMORE.
I'LL TRY BACK AT OUR PLACE.
SHE MIGHT ALREADY BE HOME.

I'LL GO WITH HER.
DISMISS THE TROOPS.
NO.

I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
ISUZU! YOU'RE ON, SO GIMME TEN OF YOUR BEST.
I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO LEND YOU SOME AID. HO HO HO HO.
OHHHH YES, OF COURSE.
PERK
...!!
IF WORSE COMES TO WORST...
...THOSE TEN WILL DIE.
SO I'LL GO INSTEAD.
...
I'M ALREADY DEAD TO BEGIN WITH.
TOK

GI
D...
H
DELICIOUS ...
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL


I'M A MESS FROM HEAD TO TOE.
Especially after what happened today.
Ah ha ha
SO, UH...ANY CHANCE I COULD USE YOUR SHOWER?
OH! NO PROBLEM!
AAAW... YOU'RE EXAGGER-ATING.
I MEAN IT!
SUCH WELL-BALANCED AND SMOOTH FLAVORS! MY TONGUE! IT FEELS LIKE IT'S MELTING!
It's like I'm in a food manga now!
MMMPH
MMPH
MMPH

SHOWER ...?
SH...
OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
THP

GAHH
HMPH!
I CAN'T SEE A THING!
GASP!
G-GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, MASATAKA!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!

SSSHH
THA DUMP
THA DUMP
her silhouette alone makes me happy.
THA DUMP
THA DUMP
BUT JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FLIMSY DOOR AYA'S NAKED AS THE DAY SHE WAS BORN! A SIGHT I'VE ONLY SEEN IN MY DREAMS!
THA DUMP
I MIGHT NOT EVER GET THIS CHANCE AGAIN!
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS THE BIGGEST (AND PROBABLY LAST) CHANCE GOD WILL EVER GIVE ME IN MY POOR, WRETCHED EXISTENCE!
THIS IS NO TIME TO LOSE MY NERVE!
NOW TO BARREL RIGHT IN...
FWSH
PEEK
...AND HAVE A LITTLE PEEK!
Sorry, Aya!
...WAH.
WAAH...

WAAH...
SSSSSS
LILIH...
WAAH...
H
H
H
H
H
H
HILILH...
SSSSSHHH
BUMP
HIC...
SPLISH
SPLISH

SSSSSS
HHHHH
VWOOO
SMACK

I CAN HEAR IT...
...AGAIN...
KI II IIIN
KIIIIN
TMP

KI
AYA...
...
WHAT ...?

KIIIIN
AYA?!
AAAAH!
AYA...!
A...
YA...
KIIIIIIIN
HAAH...
HAAH!
HAAH...
!!
LIH...

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
...
YOU'RE BURNING UP!
PWUMP
THERE SHOULD BE AN ICE PACK AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE.
LET ME SEE...
AYA...
KNOCK
SQUEEZE
PHP PHP
AYA...
KNOCK

SHE'S BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH TODAY.
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
KIIIIIIN
AYA...

KIII

SHIN
SH...

I'M FACING IT WITH MY
THIS SWORD WILL END, DEMON! I'LL NOT HESITATE

MY BODY WON'T MOVE AND MY VOICE IS BARELY A WHISPER!
W...WAIT, SHIN...

N...NO! DON'T GO. DON'T TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME!
SH...
SHIN...
...SHIN...
DON'T BECOME LIKE ME.
...FROM ME TOO... I'LL... I'LL...!
IF YOU TAKE THAT SWORD...
I WANT TO BECOME STRONGER, SHIN!!
I...!

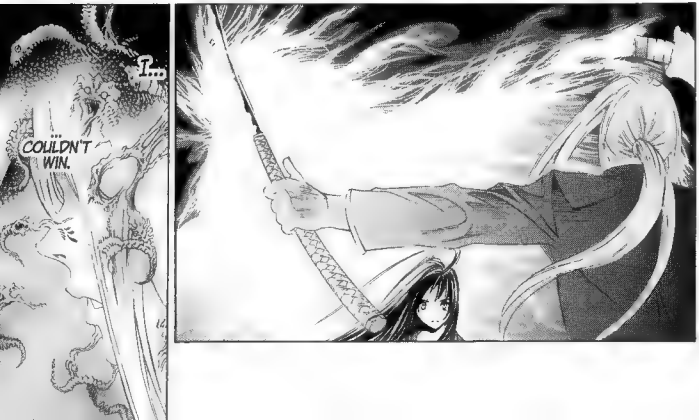
MAYA WON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT IT, BUT...
...I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF HOW DANGEROUS THIS SWORD IS.
BUT EVEN SO... I NEED IT.
PLEASE... DON'T TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME.

SO NO ONE ELSE...
...WILL SUFFER BECAUSE OF MY POWER.
I WON'T SUR-RENDER TO THE DRAGON EYES...
NO.
I WON'T SURRENDER TO MYSELF.

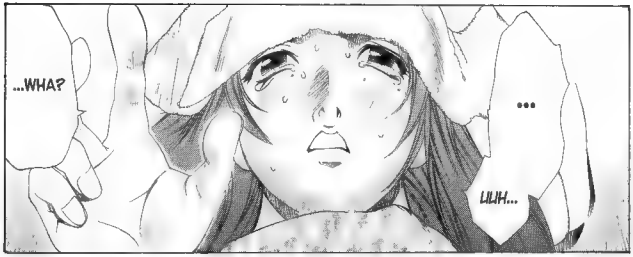
PLEASE.
SHIN.
...
WILL YOU STILL BE ABLE TO WIN THEN?
CAN YOU REALLY SAY THAT YOU CAN WIN?
THE RUN WILL PROBABLY TRY TO DRAW EVERYTHING OUT OF YOU BY FORCE
WHEN THAT HAPPENS ...
...YOU WILL HAVE TO FACE ALL THE POWER YOU POSSESS HEAD-ON

I'LL SHOW HIM I CAN DO IT. AFTER ALL, I MADE A PROMISE.
YES!

...AND END UP IN TEARS AGAIN!
I PROMISED I WOULDN'T LOSE...
WIN WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!
NEXT TIME, WIN.

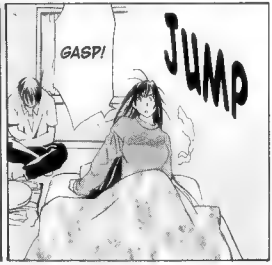

I...
...COULDN'T WIN.

REMEMBER THIS!
THIS POWER LEAVES NOTHING TO THE LOSER.
THE MOMENT YOU ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FAILURE...
CLACK
!!
FWOSH
IT WILL CONSUME YOU, AND YOU WILL DIE.
REMEMBER THAT...
SH... SHIN!
WAIT!
NO...!


...WHA?
...
UUH...

...
WAS I DREAM-ING?

Nyam nyam... oh, Aya. N-not there... Ooh♡ Ooh!♡
ZZZZZ

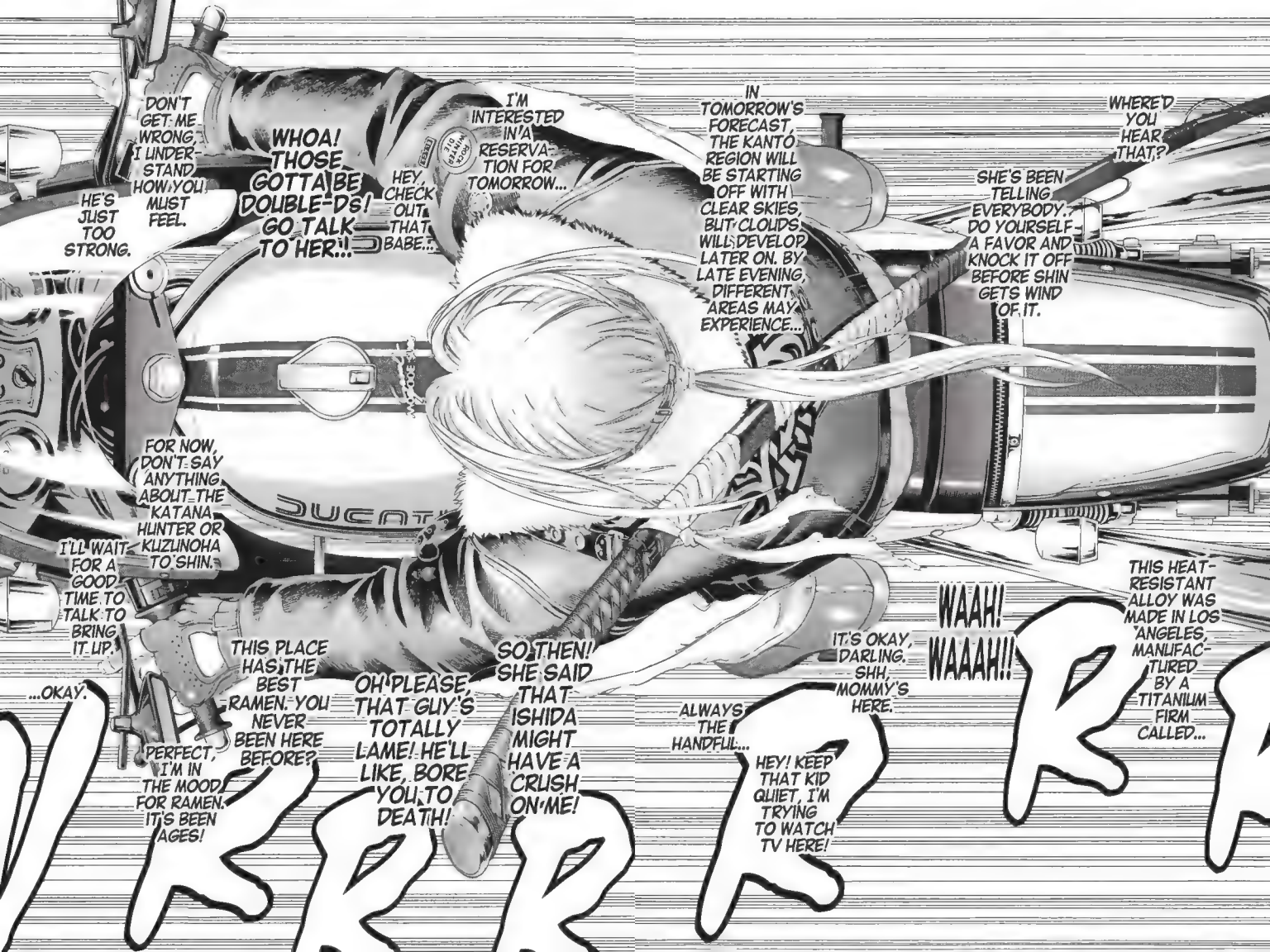

GASP!
JUMP

...

!!

VRRR

YOU WANTED TO TALK?
SO, BUNSHICHI.
AH, THERE YOU ARE.
KIIIIN
I THINK I KNOW WHO THE KATANA HUNTER IS.
FROM WHAT I GOT OUT OF WHAT WAS LEFT OF ISHIMATSU, I'M ALMOST 100 PERCENT SURE.
KIIIIIIN
IT MEANS THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS IS THE CULPRIT.
YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED?
NO, IT CAN'T BE. I'M SHOCKED.
BUT...
SOMEHOW... I ALREADY KNEW.
AND ANOTHER THING. A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME THAT YOU AND KUZUNOHA...
...HAVE BEEN SEEING AN AWFUL LOT OF EACH OTHER THESE DAYS.
GULP


DON'T GET ME WRONG, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL.
HE'S JUST TOO STRONG.
WHOA! THOSE GOTTA BE DOUBLE-Ds! GO TALK TO HER...!!
HEY, CHECK OUT THAT BABE...
I'M INTERESTED IN A RESERVATION FOR TOMORROW...
IN TOMORROW'S FORECAST, THE KANTO REGION WILL BE STARTING OFF WITH CLEAR SKIES, BUT CLOUDS WILL DEVELOP LATER ON. BY LATE EVENING, DIFFERENT AREAS MAY EXPERIENCE...
WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT?
SHE'S BEEN TELLING EVERYBODY. DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND KNOCK IT OFF BEFORE SHIN GET'S WIND OF IT.
FOR NOW, DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE KATANA HUNTER OR KUZUNOHA TO SHIN.
I'LL WAIT FOR A GOOD TIME TO TALK TO BRING IT UP.
...OKAY.
THIS PLACE HAS THE BEST RAMEN. YOU NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE?
PERFECT, I'M IN THE MOOD FOR RAMEN. IT'S BEEN AGES!
OH PLEASE, THAT GUY'S TOTALLY LAME! HE'LL LIKE, BORE YOU TO DEATH!
SO THEN! SHE SAID THAT ISHIDA MIGHT HAVE A CRUSH ON ME!
ALWAYS THE HANDFUL...
HEY! KEEP THAT KID QUIET, I'M TRYING TO WATCH TV HERE!
IT'S OKAY, DARLING. SHH, MOMMY'S HERE.
WAAH! WAAAH!!
THIS HEAT-RESISTANT ALLOY WAS MADE IN LOS ANGELES, MANUFACTURED BY A TITANIUM FIRM CALLED...
DUCATI

ASSHOLES!
I CAN HEAR EVERY WORD THEY'RE SAYING!
BLAH...
JUST SHUT UP!
BLAH BLAH...
BLAH...
...
I THINK I'M GONNA LOSE MY MIND.

FIGHT:29

WHOOSH
....
EEP!
Y...YOU IDIOT!
!!

WE'RE SORRY! WE'RE REALLY SORRY!
W...WAIT! I MEAN, PLEASE, WAIT!
THUD
IT'S THE TRUTH!
WE AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ANY KATANA HUNTERS OR WHATEVER!
THUD
THUD
THUD
RUN!
D-DUDE!
J... JUST HOLD ON...
COME ON!
KIIIIN
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
DON'T WORRY.
ZIP
ZIP
RR
RR
...LETTING OFF SOME STEAM.
I'M JUST...

SHASH
SH

UNNH!
HAH!
IT FELT LIKE I WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

CREAK
...
CREAK
...HEY.
CREAK
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU HAVEN'T... SAID A WORD SINCE YOU GOT HERE.
TO GET BACK AT SHIN
SHE SEDUCED ME
...ME?
CREAK
WHY...
IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION THAT MAKES SENSE
GIVEN THAT SHE'S BLABBED ABOUT US TO THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.
CREAK
AHN...
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU!!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
CREAK
SO MUCH...
SO VERY MUCH.
MMM
IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YOU
HUG
CREAK
YOU SILLY BOY...

IF I SAID THAT...
...WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?
OOH...
AHH!
YES.
OOOOH.
RIGHT THERE ...!
HOW ABOUT YOU, MITSU-OMI?
WHY DO YOU SLEEP WITH ME?
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SO SIMPLE.
...
AH ...!
I ACTUALLY BELIEVED WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT WAS ALL THERE WAS TO IT.
AH!
TRMBL
QUIVER
QUIVER
...
I WAS JUST...
BE-CAUSE ...
...AN IGNORANT KID.
...YOU'RE SHIN'S GIRL.

SORRY.
I WAS HOPING ...
...YOU'D SAY SOME-THING SWEETER.
KUK
...
SO HONEST.
WHAT WILL YOU DO...
...IF SHIN EVER FINDS OUT?
TNK
WILL YOU FIGHT HIM?
I WOULDN'T FIGHT HIM.
I'D LOSE FOR SURE.
IF YOU WON...

Hmph.
...THAN I THOUGHT.
YOU'RE MORE OF A COWARD...
BUT I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.
IT REMINDS ME...
...OF MYSELF.
TAKA-YANAGI HERE.
OH, BUN-SHICHI?
PING♪ JUMP
A LING
A LING

GAAH! LET GO OF ME, YOU BITCH!
YOUR WOUNDS...!
SHOVE IT! LET GO OF ME, OR I'LL THROW YOU ACROSS THE ROOM, SO HELP ME GOD!
NO!
YOU'RE STILL SEVERELY INJURED! YOU MUSTN'T TRY TO MOVE!
YEAH. I JUST CAME TO SEE HOW ISHIMATSU WAS DOING.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM ON MY HANDS...
DID YOU FIND THE GUY?! WELL, DID YOU!?
I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU FOUND THE GUY WHO DID THIS TO ME! YOU ASSHOLE! LOOK AT ME WHEN I'M TALKIN' TO YOU!!
...HE'S SAYING HE'S GONNA GO AFTER THE KATANA HUNTER HIMSELF...
WHAT WAS THAT? I MISSED THAT.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT SAID
YEAH, THE THING IS...
BUN-SHICH!
THE HEAD OF THE GUARD FORCE GETS HIS ASS WHOOPED AND YOU'RE JUST STANDIN' HERE?!
I'M TALK-ING TO YOU!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?!
HEY, ASSWIPE!
YEAH, YOU!
EEEEEK!!
BAM
BAM'BAM
CRACK
BAM
Dempsey Roll!
SHUT. THE FUCK. UP!!
BEEP!
...
BEEP!
CRUNCH
..OOPS.
I broke it.
BAM
I'M ON THE PHONE!

!!
Ah, the motive, you always...
A-and his eyes are dilated!
Oh, no!
His pulse!
Call the doctor, quick!
OH FOR FUCK'S SAKE...
KUNG

BUN-SHICHI.
ARE YOU HOLDING SOMETHING BACK FROM US?
GANG'S ALL HERE.
YO.

WHEN A KATANA MEMBER GETS BEAT UP...
...THAT'S A BLOW TO OUR REPUTATION AS A WHOLE.
ABOUT THE KATANA HUNTER.
Do I have to tell you every little thing, like how I passed off last night?
DON'T BE CREEPY.
HELL YEAH. WHAT ARE YOU, MY MOTHER?

*WHY
IF WE CHECK IT OUT AS A TEAM, IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO FIND HIM.
WHOEVER IT WAS WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO BRING DOWN EVEN ISHI-MATSU.
WHAHAYA*?!
WHY HAVEN'T WE BEEN CALLED INTO ACTION?!
IN OTHER WORDS, A BLOW TO ALL OUR REPUTA-TIONS!
Eto?

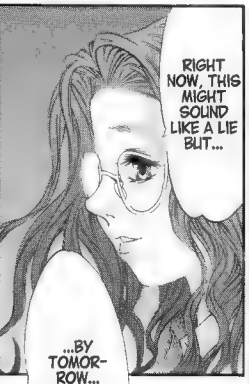
I MEAN...
IT SEEMS TO ME...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA OF WHO IT IS.
JUST BE PATIENT.
SO WHY DON'T YOU TELL US?
BOSS ...
...LIKE YOU'RE TRYING AWFULLY HARD TO HIDE WHOEVER IT IS.
OH.
BY THE WAY, YOU GOT A LIGHT?

WHAP
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU.
I'LL RAPE YOU, BITCH.

IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE WAY I DO THINGS...
QUIT YOUR YAPPING, IT'S POINTLESS!
...THEN I'M WILLING TO FIGHT IT OUT ANY TIME.
CHFF
CHFF
ESSH
...
...
A STORM'S BREWING...
TIE ISHIMATSU TO HIS HOSPITAL BED!
IF HE TRIES TO MOVE WITH THOSE INJURIES, HE'LL END UP IN THE GRAVEYARD!
Stupid head!!
I hope you die! Tch!

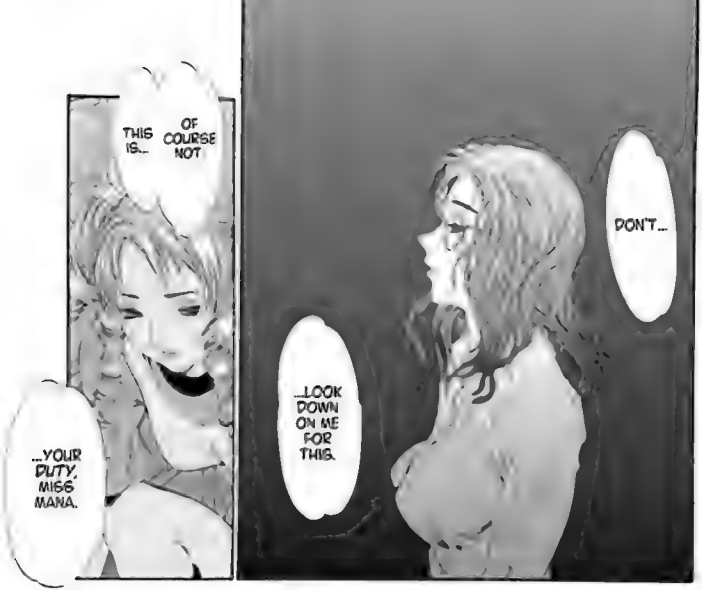
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
HOLD ON A MOMENT.
WHAT IS IT?
A PRESENT. ♡
OPEN IT WHEN YOU GET HOME.
YOU ASKED ME BEFORE...
...WHY I CHOSE YOU.
YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND THE ANSWER...
...IN THERE.

OF COURSE NOT.
...YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GONE WITH JUST ANYBODY?
YOU'RE TELLING ME...


RIGHT NOW, THIS MIGHT SOUND LIKE A LIE BUT...
...BY TOMOR-ROW...
...YOU'LL BELIEVE ME FOR SURE.

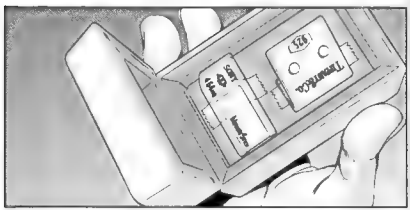
I'D BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO GET ADMITTED TO OUR SCHOOL.
THE WHOLE TIME.
I WANTED YOU BECAUSE OF WHO YOU ARE.

SEE YA.
YES.
EMI.
I'M HERE.

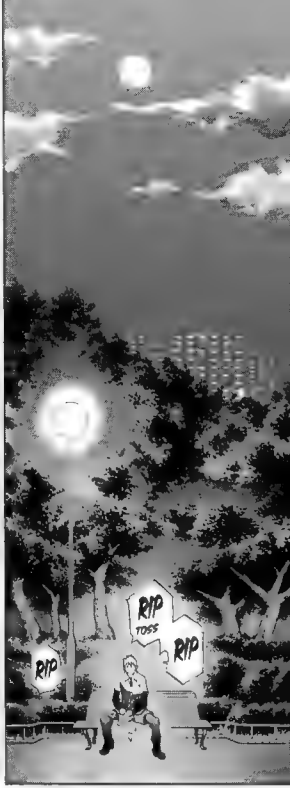

DON'T...
...LOOK DOWN ON ME FOR THIS.
OF COURSE NOT
THIS IS...
...YOUR DUTY, MISS MANA.

...
THAT'S RIGHT.

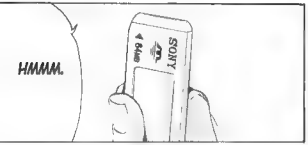
THE MOON'S SO BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT
I WONDER IF WE'LL HAVE SUN TOMOR-ROW.
NO. THE FORE-CAST CALLED FOR...
...RAIN.


TIFFANY&CO.
925

AND...
EAR-RINGS?
TIFFANY&CO.
925


RIP
RIP
TOSS
RIP

...
...?!
RIP
SONY
64MB
MEMORY STICK
TIFFANY&CO.
925



I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED RIGHT THERE.

FZZT
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE WATCHED IT.
FZZT
HELLO? HELLO?
OH! IT'S RUNNING. HERE WE GO.
IF I JUST HIT PLAY NOW...
FZZT FZZT
IS IT WORK-ING?
FZZT FZZT FZZT
...MY EVERYDAY LIFE MIGHT NEVER HAVE BECOME A LIVING NIGHTMARE.
IF I'D NEVER SEEN IT...
FZZT
LET'S FAST-FORWARD A LITTLE BIT.
FZZT FZZT
HA HA!
AH.
SEE?
TOLD YA SO!
IT'S OUR SCHOOL.

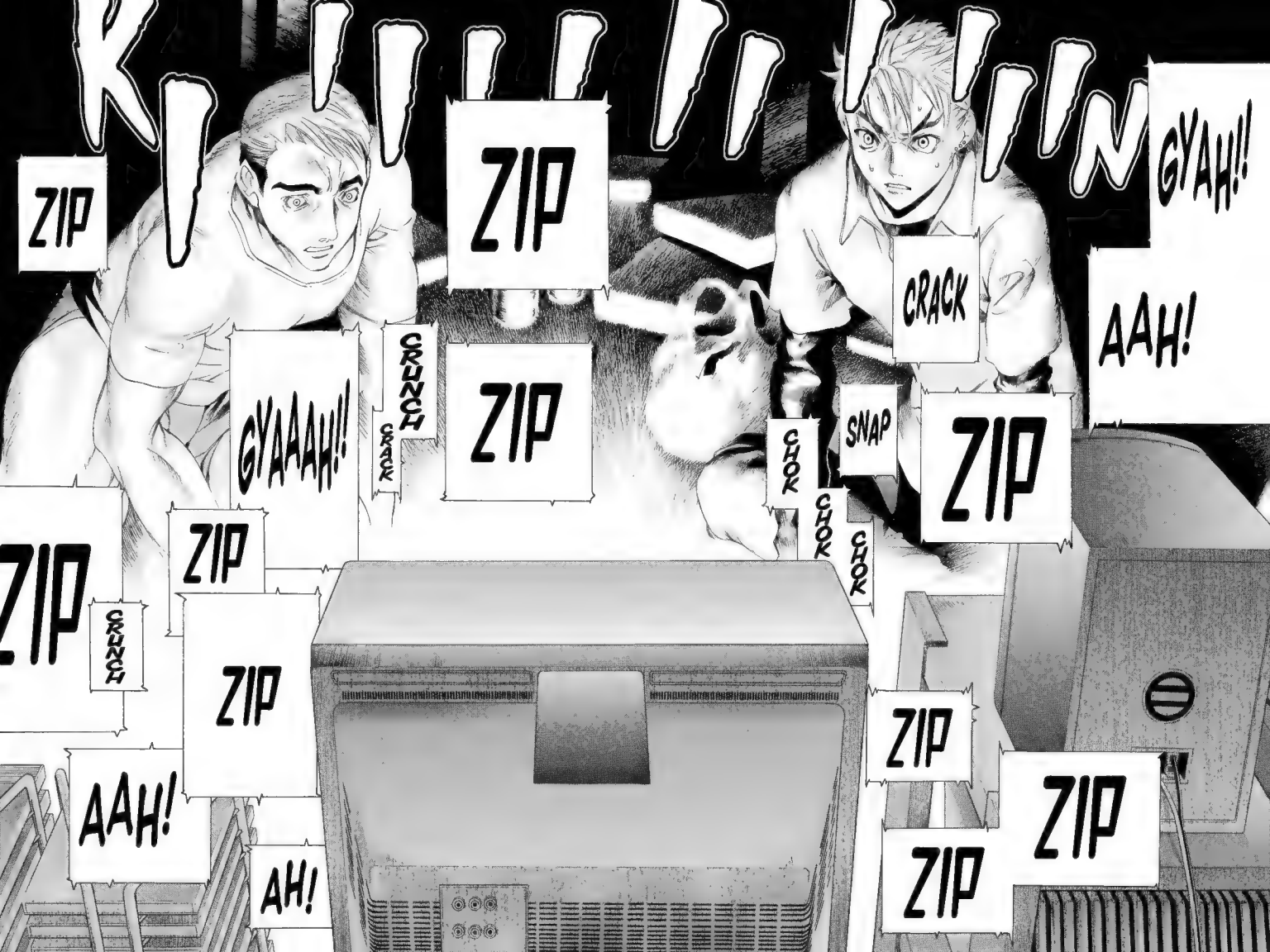
IT'S THE SAME SHIT OVER AND OVER.
WE HAVE TO WATCH ALL THIS?
...
BUT I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA GO RUNNING AROUND WITH YOUR GANG ANYWAY.
I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T HELP IT.
IT'S JUST CLUB ACTIVITIES.
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME AGAIN!
ALWAYS WITH THE LYING!
I'M ON THE TITANIC!
DUMB-ASS.
That's so old.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...
...I EVER SAW HER SMILE LIKE THAT.
...

!!
WHY DID SHE WANT TO...
...SHOW ME THIS?
SCRATCH!
SCRATCH!
...
STARE...
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE
BEEP
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME FROM THE START, BUT...
AH!
RIGHT HERE!
BUN-SHICHI.
BUNSHICHI, WAKE UP!
HUNGH?
THIS PART OF THE VIDEO'S GETTING A LITTLE WEIRD.
MOD MOD

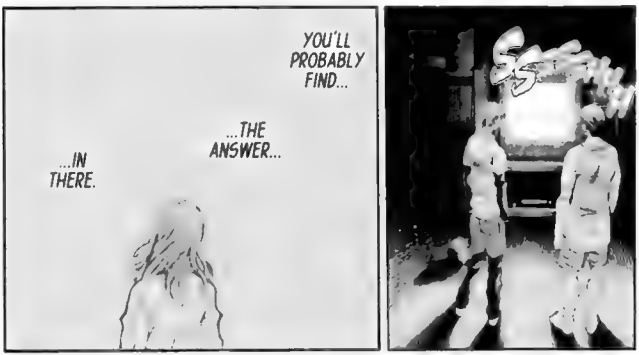
IT'S FOOTAGE OF US.
HMMM?
HERE TOO.
AND HERE.
AND HERE.
BUNSHICHI.
DO YOU REMEMBER EVER BEING FILMED BEFORE?
JUST WHO...
FZZT
FZZT
...WHO SHOT ALL THIS ANYWAY?

HRGH!
HNGH !!
...SISTER ...
TAKE THAT!
...KNOW WHOSE ...
BASH
DO YOU...
BASH
I'M ...!
...YOU MESSED WITH?!
SORRY!
BASH
PLEASE ...!
EEE!
WELL ?!
EEE!
BASH
DIE!!
DIE!
CRUNCH
SNAP
FUCKIN' DIE!!
...WHOA.
!!
EE!
LET GO!
STOP IT!
PLEASE... STOP IT!!
EEE!
I SAID LET GO!
YOU HEAR ME?!

MWA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HAH!
I'VE KNOWN SHIN...
...FOR TEN YEARS, BUT...
I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE THIS GUY.
WAAAH!
D-DUDE! RUN...!
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
I'M JUST LETTING OFF SOME STEAM.
DON'T WORRY. YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WRONG.
WE'RE SORRY! WE'RE REALLY SORRY!
W...WAIT! I MEAN, PLEASE WAIT!
WE AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ANY KATANA HUNTERS OR WHAT-EVER!
HONEST!
TMP
TMP
TMP


ZIP
ZIP
GYAH!!
CRACK
AAH!
CRUNCH
CRACK
ZIP
GYAAAH!!
SNAP
ZIP
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
ZIP
ZIP
CRUNCH
ZIP
AAH!
AH!
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP

ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
VUMP


YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND...
...THE ANSWER...
...IN THERE.
SSHH

SSHH
IN THERE...

FIGHT:30

WAAH!
SH... SHIN!
SHIN!
HUMANS ARE PRETTY THICK.
...AND MOMMY ...
TH...
THEY'RE ...
WAAH!
WAAAH!
D- DADDY...
THEY REALLY MADE A LOT OF NOISE RIGHT UP UNTIL THEIR LAST BREATH.
I THOUGHT I'D SLICE RIGHT THROUGH THEM THE WAY YOU SEE ON TV.
DEAD...

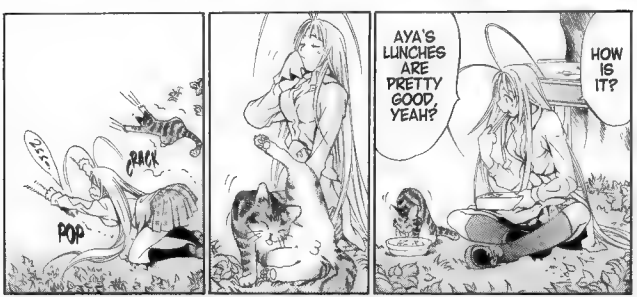
FROM NOW ON, WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
...
MEOW
...
GIVE ME THE BLADE, MAYA.
Meow
Meow
Meeeeeeeow

FIGHT:30

Meeeow
Meeeow
Meow
RUSTLE
WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP OUT HERE?
SORRY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
Meow

PHEW ...
I HAVEN'T DREAMT ABOUT THAT NIGHT...
...IN A LONG TIME.

THE SWEET LIFE OF A CAT.
SO FREE.
HUH ?!
Fss
Fss
OH, YOU'RE HUNGRY.
Fss
CLACK


HSSS
SMACK
POP
AYA'S LUNCHES ARE PRETTY GOOD, YEAH?
HOW IS IT?

PHEW...

HM?
THAT REMINDS ME.
SHIN'S BEEN COMING HOME LATE THESE DAYS.

WSSH
RUSTLE RUSTLE

BOOM

PSHH
PSHH

KRK
PHEW.
WHOOSH
BOOM
CRICK
CRACK
CRACK
HMPH

THUD
THUD
BASH
BOOM
SLAM
SLAM
AK
AW

THUD
THUD
BOOM
TUT
TUT
TUT TUT ♪
Mra?
TUT ♪

THUMP
THUMP
...A VIOLENT ...
...BEAUTIFUL MELODY.
IT'S LIKE...
THUD.
HAAH!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Hiccup.

I SEE WHY THEY SAY YOU'RE A "STALLION" IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD.
I THINK YOU MEAN A "THOROUGH-BRED."
SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT.
What's the diff?
Mean?
BESIDES ...
I CAN'T CALL THIS A REAL "STYLE."
I WAS JUST FIRING PUNCHES AT RANDOM.
THUNK
!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR HAND?
HM?
OH.
YOU MEAN THIS.
I CAN'T STOP IT.
SOMEONE...
...TOOK A BITE OUT OF MY HEART.

...
AS THE HEIR...
...TO THE SUPREME WARRIOR FACTION, RULERS OF ALL MARTIAL ARTIST FAMILIES...
...I'VE MET PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN MY LIFE.

...TO EXPERTS IN THE ART OF TURNING BOULDERS INTO SAND WITH A SINGLE TOUCH.
FROM AN OLD MAGICIAN WHOSE ONLY TRICK WAS RUNNING BAREFOOT ON WATER...
WHY DID KUZUNOHA...
BUT THAT WAS DIFFERENT.
FZZT FZZT FZZT FZZT
WHY DID SHE SHOW ME THAT?
I GET CLOSE TO ME?
IT FELT LIKE I WAS BEING STABBED WITH NEEDLES ALL OVER.
MY ARMS AND LEGS MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN SOMEONE ELSE'S THE WAY I COULDN'T FEEL THEM AT ALL.
BUT RIGHT NOW THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

THAT WASN'T THE WORK OF A HUMAN BEING.
THERE'S NO ONE ON EARTH WHO COULD DO THE THINGS HE DID!
SOME-THING'S CRAWLING UP FROM THE DEEPEST, MURKIEST DEPTHS OF MY CONSCIOUS-NESS.
TRYING TO PULL ME DOWN TO WHERE IT SLUMBERS
PIERCING ME THROUGH THE GUT, COILING AROUND MY HEART AND EATING AWAY AT IT.

THE SERPENT THEY CALL FEAR.

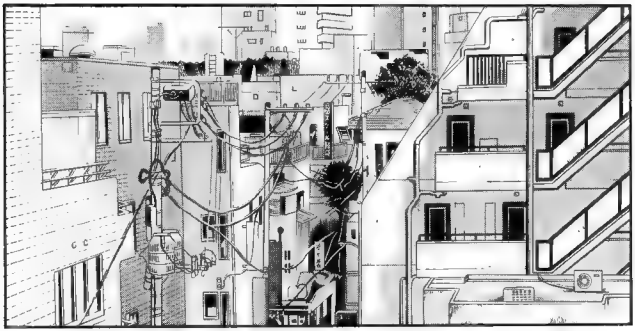
EVEN A MAN OF YOUR CALIBER?
YOU'RE AFRAID OF MY BROTHER?
...

SQUEAK
CREAK
AS A MARTIAL ARTIST...
...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TAKE HIM ON IN A REAL FIGHT SOMEDAY.
BOOM
BUT RIGHT NOW...
...IF I DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT HIM, I'LL GLADLY CALL IT A LOSS.

SSSS
HHH
RUNNING AWAY WITHOUT A FIGHT...
...IS A PLEA FOR PITY.
EVEN IF PEOPLE LOOK DOWN ON ME OR DESPISE ME FOR IT...
...I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT HIM.

...THEN I DON'T DESERVE THESE POWERFUL HANDS!
AND IF I'M GOING TO BE SUCH A PUSH-OVER...

YOU'RE A LOT...
...LIKE ME.
YOUR HEART DECEIVES YOU.
IF I'D THOUGHT I COULD TAKE HIM ON AND WIN...
...I WOULDN'T HAVE RESORTED TO THIS WHOLE KATANA HUNTER GIG.



BRING IT ON!
YOU ASSHOLE. DON'T YOU REALIZE WHO I AM? I'M ONE OF THE THREE TOBAKU BROTHERS.
TETSU, USER OF THE BAKARA STYLE!
AND I USE THE POKER STYLE!
YASUJI...
Wah!
KICK
BACK

THAT MAHJONG DUDE IS ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS, RIGHT?
EE...
Y-YEAH, ALL TOGETHER, WE'RE THE THREE TOBAKU BROTHERS...
THE FUCK IS THIS BAKARA POKER SHIT?
YOW!
EE!
EEK!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
CHOKE
CHOKE
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
I KNOW THAT! YOU LITTLE TURDS HAVEN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BEAT ISHIMATSU!
GYAH!
SOR...
I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK!!
ALL I WANNA KNOW IS WHERE YOU GOT THAT LOGO ON YOUR BACKS.
SOR-RY!
I'M SOR-RY!
B-BUT... YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG. WE'RE NOT REALLY KATANA HUNTERS.
SANADA JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE THE FASTEST WAY TO MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES.
SO WE THOUGHT WE'D CATCH SOME SLEEP IN A CLASSROOM UNTIL SCHOOL OPENED.
...AND WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO.
WE WERE OUT DRINKING AND SINGING ALL NIGHT...

SHE HAD LONG HAIR.
I-IT WAS DARK OUT. IT WAS HARD TO SEE, BUT... IT LOOKED LIKE A GIRL.
AND SHE WAS TALL.
RIGHT?
SHE HAD THESE TWO ANTENNA-LIKE THINGS COMING OUT FROM HERE.
YOU GOT A GOOD LOOK, I'M SURE.
WHAT'D HE LOOK LIKE?
H-HONEST! I'M NOT LYING!
THAT'S WHEN WE SAW SOMEONE HANGING UP THAT LEATHER JACKET ON THE SCHOOL GATE.
GULP
HMPH. SEE?
WE WERE RIGHT.
THAT SETTLES IT.
YEAH, YEAH, LIKE THAT.
...HUH?
SURE.
UM... CAN WE GO NOW?
TCH!
I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD HOW DESPERATE BUNSHICHI WAS TO COVER IT UP.

WE'RE NOT LETTING HER OFF THE HOOK...
..JUST BECAUSE SHE'S THE BOSS'S LITTLE SISTER.
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
WE'VE ALREADY FINISHED HERE...
THMP
GLP

BASH

ISHI-MATSU MUST'VE RECOG-NIZED MY VOICE.
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE MEOWED OUT LOUD LIKE THAT.
DID YOU KNOW...
...THAT YOU'D BEEN FOUND OUT?
WHY...
...DID YOU DO IT?

KI
KEIGH
IN

IT'S MY ANSWER...
...TO MY BROTHER.

THE ONLY REASON MY BROTHER GOT SO POWERFUL...
...WAS TO PROTECT ME BECAUSE I "COULDN'T PROTECT MYSELF."

SLASH

I'D DESTROY IT ALL AND GET SO STRONG THAT NOT EVEN MY BROTHER WOULD BE A MATCH FOR ME.
SO I DECIDED TO CRUSH EVERYTHING HE'D BUILT.
...THE DERANGED BEAST HE IS.
...HE'LL ALWAYS BE...
BECAUSE IF I DON'T...

FIGHT:31

VROOM
MUUUR
MUUUR
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
SKREE

TCH!

JEEZ, IS HE EVEN ALIVE?
THERE'S ALSO A GIRL HERE TOO.
AN OLD MAN WHO SAW IT SAID IT WAS A MASSA-CRE.
Can I use the bath-room?
There.

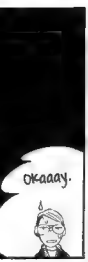
SLUG-BROW, YOU ALIVE? HELLO!
HEY!
DO YOU KNOW HIM?!
WH-WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
YOU IDIOT, DON'T MOVE HIM!
JUST WHAT I NEED!
DID HE DO THIS?
WAS IT SHIN?
ALL I NEED IS A NOD.
KOFF
OH...
BLIN...
BLIN-SHICHI ...
SHIN...?
SH...
YEAH, SHIN.
OR WAS IT SOME-ONE ELSE?
EEEEE!
!!
Aah!

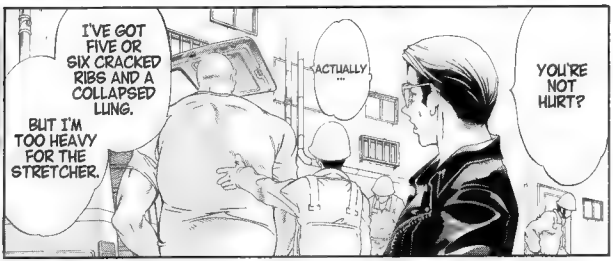
THESE FIVE ARE IN CRITICAL CONDITION!
LOOK, YOU! STOP AGGRAVATING THEM!
Ah!
No!
Nooo!
No!
Sh... Ssshhiiiin!
S-SOMEBODY GET THIS GUY OUTTA HERE!
He w-won't budge!
Ah!
Ah!
Aaaah!
Waah!
OKAY?
EVERYTHING'S FINE. IT'S ALL RIGHT...
JUST CALM DOWN.
!!
SHUDDER
OKAY...
OKAY.
WE...
W...
BARF...!
DID YOU SEE HER FACE?
TCH!

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
WE'RE... DONE WITH ALL THIS.
WE'RE Q-QUITTING... THE KATANA.
S...SORRY.
WE'RE SORRY.

THAT'S ENOUGH, BUN-SHICHI.
HE'S SCARED.
WUTAN!

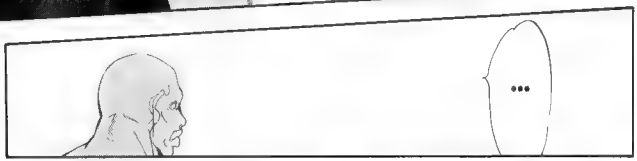
AA
AA
AAH!
HUH?!
WHAT'S THAT YOU SAID?


Okaaay.


I'VE GOT FIVE OR SIX CRACKED RIBS AND A COLLAPSED LUNG.
BUT I'M TOO HEAVY FOR THE STRETCHER.
ACTUALLY...
YOU'RE NOT HURT?

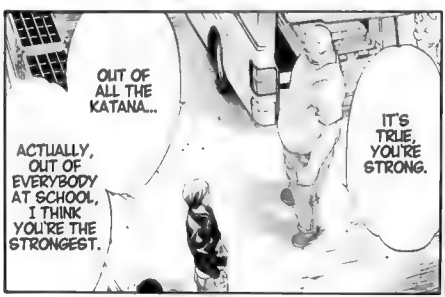
WUTAN, LISTEN.
ALL THIS FIGHTING AND SEEING WHO'S STRONGEST AND WHO GETS THEIR ASS BEAT.
I'M SICK OF IT.
ALL I WANT IS TO ENJOY A CAREFREE SCHOOL LIFE WITH EVERYONE. THEN I'D BE HAPPY.
THAT'S WHY...
...I HID THE IDENTITY OF THE KATANA HUNTER FROM YOU.
BUT I GUESS IT BLEW UP IN MY FACE.
I'LL TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THIS.
RUSTLE
AND I'M GONNA KILL THAT FLICKER SHIN.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME...
...I'LL MAKE HIM REMEMBER HOW I GOT MY NICKNAME.


...

HEY, ISN'T THAT...
THAT'S TAWARA!
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM WITH HIS HAIR CUT.
WHO'S THAT?
YOU DON'T KNOW? HE'S INFAMOUS!
I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH WITH HIM.
HE WAS AN ICON THERE.

THEY CALLED HIM DOUBLE IMPACT TAWARA.
"70 KILLED AT HORIKIRI MOUNTAIN PASS!"
"THE EMPEROR'S PRIVATE ARMY, ANNIHILATED!" ETC, ETC. THERE'S NO END TO THE LEGENDS SURROUNDING THAT GUY.
HE HASN'T BEEN AS ACTIVE THESE DAYS, BUT BACK WHEN HE FIRST FOUNDED THE KATANA, HE WAS THEIR SPECIAL FORCES CAPTAIN AND DESTROYED ALMOST ALL THEIR ENEMIES SINGLE-HANDEDLY. HE WAS A LIVING GOD OF WAR.
*DRAMATIZATION OF ACTUAL EVENTS.


OUT OF ALL THE KATANA...
ACTUALLY, OUT OF EVERYBODY AT SCHOOL, I THINK YOU'RE THE STRONGEST.
IT'S TRUE, YOU'RE STRONG.

I think you're giving people the wrong idea
BUN-SHICHI
IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET, BUT...
...THEY SAY THAT IF HE TOOK ON THE LEADER, SHIN, HE'D WIN EASY.

BUT...
EVEN SO, YOU STILL COULDN'T BEAT SHIN.
YOU'RE JUST STRONG.
YOU'RE NOT SCARY.
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO AFRAID OF SHIN...OR ANYBODY...
...UNTIL TODAY.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU...
...DIFFERENT FROM SHIN.

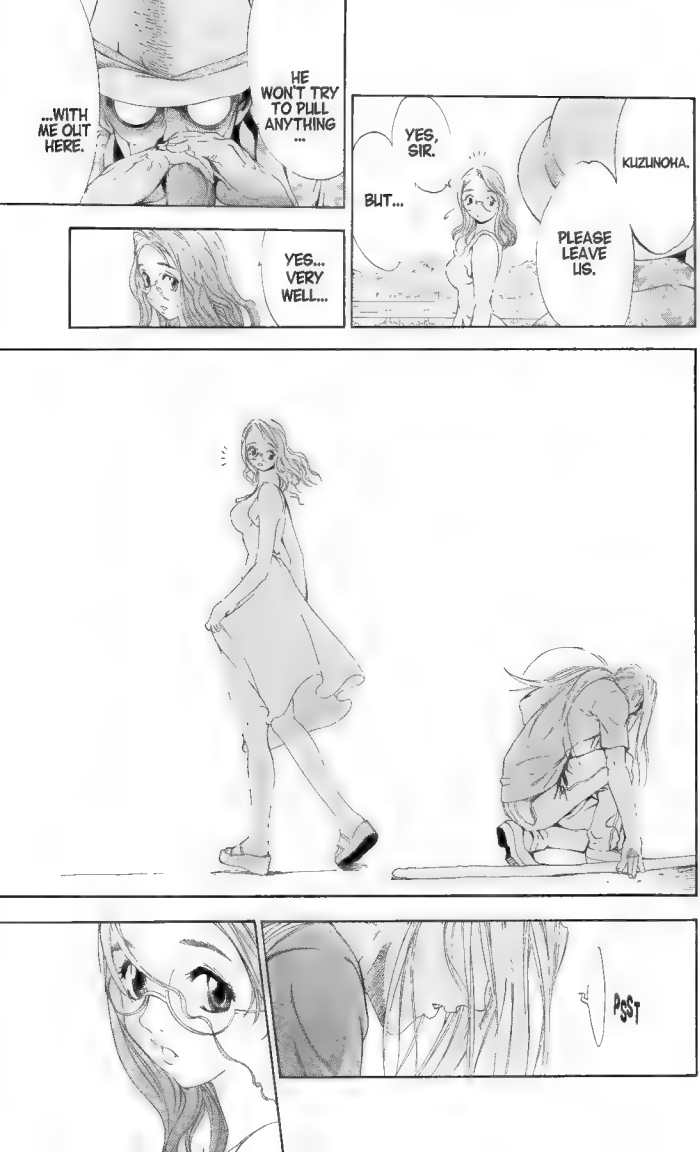
30
BZZZ BZZ BZZ
SKREE

SQUEAK
SQUEAK
YOU'RE LATE.
SQUEAK

I BORROWED THIS AT THE STATION.
I HAD SOME MINOR BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.
RATTLE
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY ON THAT BIKE?
IF YOU WERE GOING TO BE LATE, YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED.
IS BEATING YOUR FRIENDS HALF TO DEATH WHAT YOU CONSIDER "MINOR BUSINESS"?
REMEMBER YOUR MANNERS.
...

PATRIARCH OF THE SUPREME WARRIOR FACTION.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
KLAK

MASTER DOGEN TAKAYANAGI.


...WITH ME OUT HERE.
HE WON'T TRY TO PULL ANYTHING ...
YES... VERY WELL...
BUT...
YES, SIR.
KUZUNOHA.
PLEASE LEAVE US.
PSST

I HEARD YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED HER YET.
DOES SHE NOT...
...PLEASE YOU?
HA HA!
OH?
I MAY ONLY BE A STUDENT, BUT I DON'T HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.
PLEASE STATE YOUR BUSINESS.
BUSINESS?
I THOUGHT I'D HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE SOMEWHERE...
MASTER!
HMPH!
BUSINESS, YOU SAY!
...YOU'RE SO PROUD OF!
USE THOSE DRAGON EYES...
TAKE A GUESS.

...
MISS?
WE'VE GOT THIS PLACE SURROUNDED.
HEH HEH.
NO NEED TO WORRY, MISS.
...A NUMBER OF STAFF HAVE BEEN OBSERVING AND RECORDING HIM THIS WHOLE TIME WITH HIS APPROVAL.
ONE SUCH PERSON IS SHIN NATSUME, WHO STARTED SHOWING SIGNS OF HAVING SPECIAL ABILITIES AT A YOUNG AGE. IN ORDER TO GET DATA SAMPLES FROM HIM...
NO MATTER THE TYPE OR MAGNITUDE OF THEIR POWER, ONE OF THE TAKAYANAGI FAMILY'S PRIMARY DUTIES IS THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF SUCH EXTRAORDINARILY TALENTED PEOPLE
AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO.
...
AND I WAS GIVEN THE JOB OF PLAYING THE ROLE OF SHIN NATSUME'S GIRLFRIEND.

IT'S BEEN...
TWO YEARS ALREADY
I FELT IT WHEN IT PASSED HIM.
THE CHOKING STENCH OF BLOOD THAT SEEMED TO HAVE PENETRATED TO HIS VERY CORE.

TODAY ...
...I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE.
PUP
MANA.
SO WHY DOES HE...
...TOUCH ME SO DEEPLY?
WEEOOO
WEEOOO
WEEOOO

THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU...
TCH!
...DIFFERENT FROM SHIN.
WHY'D HE HAVE TO GO AND SAY THAT?
THAT BRUISED MY EGO.
ZHUH
ZHUH
BUT.
EVEN SO...

!!
IF YOU DON'T LAY OFF, I'LL START CHARGING MY ACTING RATE, YOU SHIT!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP FILMING?!
...
AH!
CLATTER

HM?
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?!
WHOOSH
!!
CRACK

SWING
NNGH!
GRIP
!!
THOK
HEY, YOU!
BUMP
IT'S OKAY, SIR. THAT WAS MY GIRLFRIEND.
WE WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE ARGU-MENT.
THUD
WHIP
...LIGH.
MY POOR DREAM OF HAVING A CAREFREE SCHOOL LIFE...
...IS A LONG WAYS OFF, IT SEEMS.
No more trouble.

GAH!
THAT SLIMY ...!
SKR
SNAP
FEEE
CRASH
BANG

THUD
VRO
SKE
TCH!
Missed her!
OOM
SKREE
SQUEAL
HRAAAH!
♫
Oh, miss lady
ma'am! Hold up
Lemme rape
your ass.
♪
Eee!
GIVE UP RIGHT NOW AND YOU CAN PAY WITH...
...TWENTY TITTY FUCKS!
YOU OWE ME FOR THAT KICK TO THE JAW, THE DAMAGE TO MY HAND, AND ACTING FEES!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
BONG
BANG
CLANG
No way in hell.

JUST GIVE IT UP ALREADY.
I'LL CUT THE PRICE DOWN TO JUST FIFTEEN TITTY FUCKS. ♡
DADUM
DADUM
DADUM
HAH!

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

IF YOU WANT MY BODY THAT BADLY...
...THEN COME AND GET IT. ♡

SWISH
THAT IS, IF YOU DON'T MIND THE ACCES-SORIES!

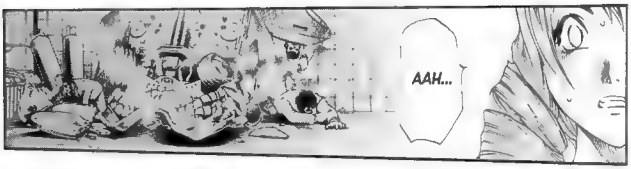
A-HA, SO YOU USE CONCEALED WEAPONS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE. Where you been hiding those things?
WHEN.
!!
HM?
SQUEEEEEEEEEEEEEAL
!!
THUD

BANG
WHUD
CLANG
NOW HOLD ON...
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
WHAT THE ...?!
...
GAHAH!
GAH!
VRR RR OOO ON
YOU TRYING TO FINISH ME OFF?!
SKRE EEEEEEEEE
SKRK SKRK
WOO OO

RIP
YOU MOTHER-FUCKER!
FINE BY ME!

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS!
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS PAIN AND SUFFERING?
WHY DO I HAVE TO FIGHT SHIT-HEADS LIKE THIS?
BOO
RRSH
WHAM
THIS
THIS!

ALL FOR THAT FOOL.


AAH...

DOUBLE IMPACT TAWARA!!
...A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED BEAT-DOWN.
WHEN I GET BACK, I'M GIVING THAT ASSWIPE...
I'M A THIRD YEAR AT TODO ACADEMY.

I KNOW YOU...
...BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE!
PREPARE TO DIE!

FIGHT:32

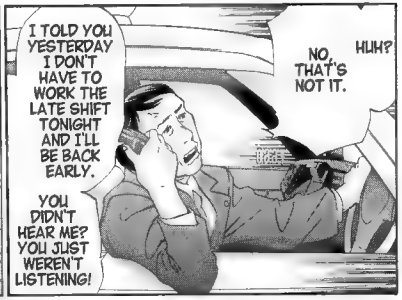
PREPARE TO DIE!
TAWARA LETS LOOSE, REVEALING HIS GOD-LIKE COMBAT SKILLS!

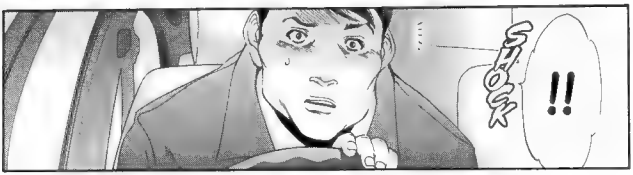
I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
I...I'M NOT LYING!
FUCK YOU!!
WHO'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?! DON'T LIE TO US, YOU BASTARD!

FIGHT:32

VROOM

I'LL CALL YOU LATER. AND I BETTER SEE DINNER ON THE TABLE WHEN I GET HOME!
BEEP
HOLD ON, I'VE GOT A FARE.
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO?! LIKE WHAT?! ON A WEEK NIGHT?!


I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY I DON'T HAVE TO WORK THE LATE SHIFT TONIGHT AND I'LL BE BACK EARLY.
YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME? YOU JUST WEREN'T LISTENING!
HUH?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.


STOCK
!!

...
NO WAY I'M GETTING MIXED UP WITH THIS.
Just look the other way. Ignore him...
WHAT THE...? HE'S BLEEDING ALL OVER AND CARRYING THAT GIRL BY THE COLLAR.
UUH...

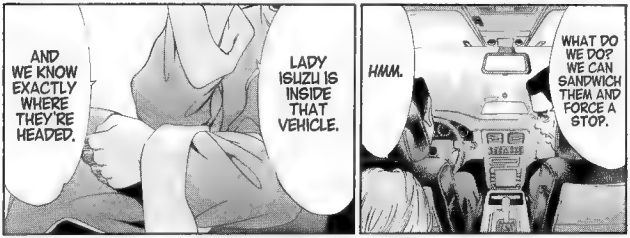
AND DON'T OPEN THE DOOR FOR YOURSELF!
W-W-W-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
SKR
WAH!!
EEEEEEE
FLING
DON'T TURN DOWN A PASSENGER.
I've got a frequent riders card.
He wants to kill me. He honestly wants me dead.
JUST TAKE ME TO THIS LOCATION.
BEEP BEEP
BEEP
I'LL PAY YOU TWICE YOUR USUAL RATE.
VROOM
ERR...
CHILL
Y...
YEAH, FINE... SIR.
PLEASE, MISTER.
HEEE

HERE'S HER ID.
AND IT'S EVEN HOLO-GRAPHIC. HOW GAUDY.
Emi Isuzu
EMI ISUZU, HUH.
I HAD A SNEAKING SUSPICION, BUT...
THE RISING PHOENIX. THIS IS MITSUOMI'S SEAL...THE TAKAYANAGI FAMILY CREST.
FEH!
THE ISUZU FAMILY AND THE "FAMED" KUZUNOHA CLAN BOTH SERVE THE TAKAYANGI FAMILY AS THEIR TOP-RANKING PRIVATE GUARDS.
BULL-SHIT.

!!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO EXPLAIN ALL THAT BLOOD HE'S GETTING ON THE SEATS TO MY BOSS?
PLEASE DON'T LET GET ME CAUGHT UP IN ANYTHING DANGEROUS.
SHIT! I HAVE THE WORST LUCK, GETTING MIXED UP WITH THIS TROUBLESOME-LOOKING PUNK. GIMME A BREAK.
VROOM
SKREEE
VROOM
VROOM
SKREEE
SQUEE
KREEE
TCH.
VROOOOOM
SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
BANG
SKREEE

BANG
GAA AH!
YOU WANNA PULL OVER?!
OOPSIE!
BANG
HEY!!
HEY, YOU HEAR ME IN THERE?!
LOOKING SHARP, MISTER DRIVER MAN!
I'LL KILL YOU DEAD!
Aieee!
I'M AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER!
HOW CAN I TRUST YOU?!
I'M STOPPING RIGHT NOW!
SKRE
...WON'T ATTACK!!
THEY PROBABLY...
DON'T STOP! SO LONG AS I HAVE THE GIRL...

Goddammit, I really have the worst luck.
S... STOP THAT !!
AND THE TWO OF US WILL HAUNT THE BACK SEAT OF THIS CAB FOREVER.
THEN THOSE MEN WILL KILL ME.
PULL OVER AND THE GIRL GETS IT.


AND WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY'RE HEADED.
LADY ISUZU IS INSIDE THAT VEHICLE.
HMM.
WHAT DO WE DO? WE CAN SANDWICH THEM AND FORCE A STOP.

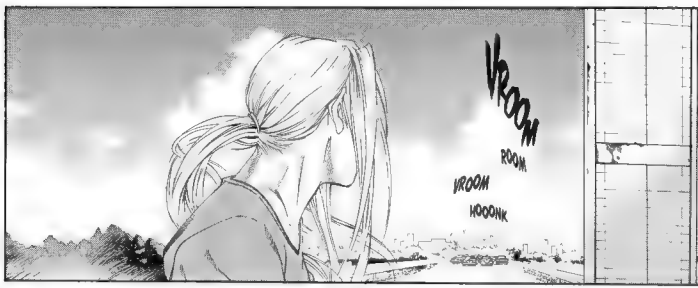
...GO ON THEIR MERRY WAY?
WHY NOT LET THEM...

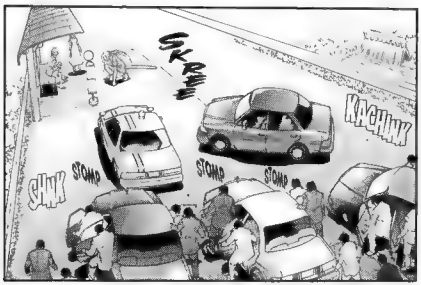
MUTTER
I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY, BUT I'VE ALWAYS HAD THE WORST LUCK.
MUTTER
I'VE BEEN A GOOD LITTLE WORKER FOR TWENTY YEARS BUT NEVER BEEN PROMOTED OR HAD A RAISE.
MUTTER
MUTTER
MY WIFE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF MY LATE HOURS TO RUN AROUND WITH OTHER MEN!
MUTTER
AND IF I HADN'T CALLED HER TODAY, WHO KNOWS WHERE SHE WOULD HAVE GONE!
AND NOW I'M MIXED UP IN THIS GOD-AWFUL MESS...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU'RE LUCKY COMPARED TO ME.
BANG BANG
PULL OVER! YOU HEAR ME, DUMBASS?!
I'LL KILL YOU!!
...
EVEN CONSIDERING THIS?
I'VE BEEN STABBED, HIT BY A CAR...
...AND THE ONE THING I VALUE AFTER MY LIFE, MY BELOVED BIKE, IS NOW A HEAP OF PLASTIC AND SCRAP METAL.

AND WORST OF ALL...
...THE GUY I ALWAYS THOUGHT WAS MY BEST FRIEND TURNED OUT TO BE A TOTAL PSYCHO.
HE'S GOT SOME CRAZY POWER IN HIM, BUT...
...HE'S TOO STUPID TO KNOW HOW TO PUT THAT POWER TO GOOD USE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.

THOSE WERE THE ONLY TIMES HIS EYES CAME ALIVE.
...ONLY WHEN HE HAD TO PROTECT MAYA WAS THERE ANY LIFE OR FIRE IN HIS EYES.
HE WAS USUALLY PRETTY LAID BACK AND NEVER CONCERNED HIMSELF WITH MUCH, BUT...
YOU REALLY ARE...
...A HELPLESS, STUPID SPOILED BRAT.
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR TEN YEARS.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
..THAT WAS THE ONLY REAL PLACE...
BUT ONLY NOW...
...HAVE I REALIZED THAT SIMPLE TRUTH.
...YOU BELONGED IN THIS WORLD.


VROOM
ROOM
VROOM
HOOONK


SKREE
KA-CHUNK
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
SLINK

...

KID.
WE'RE HERE.
HEY, KID!
...
HEY...!
NNGH...
UH-HUH.
SORRY, I GOT SO COMFORT-ABLE BACK HERE I DOZED OFF.
I drooled a little.
OPEN THE DOOR FOR ME.
AND SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.
YOU REALLY MEAN TO...
...GO OUT THERE WITH ALL THOSE INJURIES?

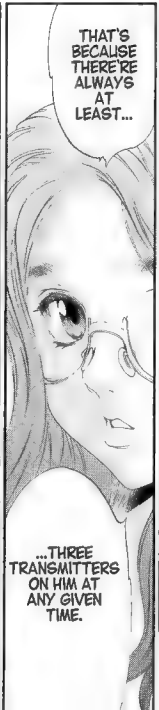
...SHE COMES HOME WITH SOLID PROOF, RIGHT? HICKIES.
GIFTS FROM HER LOVER.
MISTER.
WHEN YOUR WIFE CHEATS ON YOU...
WHEN YOU NOTICE THOSE LITTLE "MESSAGES," WHAT DO YOU DO?
DO YOU REALLY PRETEND TO NOT SEE THEM?

LIFE WOULD BE A HELL OF A LOT LESS PAINFUL IF WE COULD BE IGNORANT OF THINGS LIKE THAT. BUT...
UNFOR-TUNATELY ...
I CAN'T IGNORE...
...THE MESSAGE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
...
HEY KID.
WIN THIS ONE!

WH
M

BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YA. ♡
FWIP
YO, SHIN.

...YOUR GOD-DAMN MOUTH!
SHUT...
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU, FUGLY!


THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'RE ALWAYS AT LEAST...
...THREE TRANSMITTERS ON HIM AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

GOOD DAY.
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE HERE, BLIN-SHICHI?

WELL, WITH THIS HANDY LITTLE DEVICE...
...I KNEW EXACTLY WHERE TO GO.
Got it off the Chief-Constable's desk.

WHY DID YOU LET HIM COME THIS FAR?
FU CHI'EN!
I TOLD YOU WE HAD IMPORTANT BUSINESS TODAY AND DIDN'T WANT INTRUDERS!
FU CHI'EN!
HO HO HO!
...DO APOLOGIZE, MISS KUZUNOHA.
I...
...SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BOY DEEPLY IMPRESSES ME.
I BEG YOUR FORGIVE-NESS.
BUT...

IS NOT THE MEMORY STICK YOU IMPRUDENTLY HANDED OVER TO MISTER MITSUOMI RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS?
SONY
64MB
MEMORY STICK
BECAUSE OF THE SLOPPY WAY YOU HANDLED THINGS, THIS BOY HERE ALSO SAW ITS CONTENTS...
...AND WE WERE FORCED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM AS WELL.
YOU!
YOU ALLOWED PERSONAL FEELINGS TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR JOB?!
WITH ALL DUE RE-SPECT.
HA!
GRIN
I JEST. ♡
HUH!
...!!
BUT IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
IF THEY WANT TO FIGHT, WE SHOULD LET THEM.

THESE TWO TODO STUDENTS ARE LIKE GUINEA PIGS ANYWAY.
SO...
...THEY WERE DESTINED TO FIGHT EACH OTHER SOONER OR LATER.
FU CHI'EN !!

SHIN, WHAT DID THE CHINAMAN...
...MEAN BY THAT?!

THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE TELLS ME...
...YOU KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!

ANSWER ME, DAMMIT!
KUH... KUH!
KUH KUH KUH!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!
HA!

HAAH...

SHIN...
...

BUNSHICHI, YOU ASSHOLE.
GO FUCK YOURSELF.
SHIVER

HMM.
...HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON FROM BEFORE. THAT BLOODLUST!
IT'S LIKE...
UUH...
YOU THINK YOU CAN FOLLOW ME AROUND BECAUSE YOU PRETENDED TO BE MY FRIEND?
YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME?! DON'T YOU DARE PITY ME!
Ah!
KILLING

WELL, WELL.
PLEASE GET BACK!
FWOOSH
OH.
OH HO.
MASTER. IT'S DANGEROUS OUT HERE.
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
I AM A THIRD YEAR AT TODO ACADEMY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.
SHIN NATSUME!
AASH

BRING IT!
DRRRRING
I CAME HERE TO HELP YOU, BUDDY!
Oh well, here we go.
HEH HEH.
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
POP
POP CRACK
...TO DEMON EXTERMINATION.
BUT NOW...
THIS HAS GONE FROM DISCIPLINE ...

FIGHT:33

POP
KRK
POP
THAT KID'S... SERIOUSLY GONNA FIGHT?
...
HE'LL GET HIMSELF KILLED. In seconds
WHAT'S HIS FIGHTING STYLE?
HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE.
IF I HAD TO SAY, I'D JUST CALL IT BRAWLING!
BUT...
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE MARTIAL ARTIST AT SCHOOL WHO'S EVER BEATEN HIM.
VOOOOOOOO
SPLIK
PING
PING

WOOO
HE'S TODO'S STRONGEST AMATEUR!
HEE
SKUEE
AND YET...
SSSSSHHHH

THUNK

HUH?!
HEE
Tch!
YOU BASTARD!
ZWF

SKRSH

WHM
WHM
SKUF
SKID

SHIRK
SHIRK
SHIRK
YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE JUST CUT YOU IN HALF.
WHAT'S WRONG, BUN-SHICHI?
HUFF!
HUFF!
THAT...
THAT WASN'T JUST MY IMAGINATION! WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW REALLY...
HUFF!

WHAT BLOODLUST.
IT'S SO INTENSE HIS OPPONENT CAN SEE HIMSELF GETTING CUT DOWN AS IF IT WERE REALLY HAPPENING.
...!!
IF SHIN WANTED TO, HE COULD HAVE ALREADY KILLED HIM TWICE IN AS MANY SECONDS.
EVEN IN A REGULAR SWORDFIGHT, HIS DRAGON EYES GIVE HIM TOO MUCH OF AN UPPER HAND.
THAT AND THE CEREMONIAL SWORD, REIKI.
Y...
YOU...
...ASSHOLE!
THE JAPANESE CALL THIS...
Huh?
...BULLYING, RIGHT?
♡

PHOO
PHOO
PHOO
CALM DOWN.
LOOK SHARP.
I'VE BEEN IN PLENTY OF FIGHTS LIKE THIS BEFORE.
IF I DIVE RIGHT IN EXPECTING TO DIE, THEN THAT SWORD'S NOT SO SCARY.
PHOO
PHOOO...
HM.
OOH.
I'M READY TO DIE!

THUNK

SPATT
GUH!
ZCH
AH!
PLUNGE
SKIIID
IF CONVICTION WERE ALL IT TOOK TO WIN, THERE'D BE NO NEED FOR MARTIAL ARTS IN THE WORLD.
WHEN PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY FIND THEMSELVES CAUGHT IN AN AWFUL PREDICAMENT, THEY'RE ALWAYS QUICK TO SAY THEY'RE READY TO DIE.
IT'S A BAD HABIT.

GWAH!
AH!
RIP
RIP
RIP
SLICE
WHOOSH
DUCK
THOOM

KLANG
WHOA!
HEE
DAMN. IS THIS FOR REAL? THAT ASSHOLE...
KOFF!
FLOAT
...TOTALLY STABBED ME!

C-COME ON.
HEE
W-WAIT...
STAB

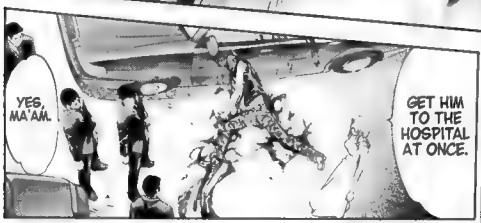
GWAH!!
AH!
SLISH
M... MASTER FU.
URGH.
GLIH!
CHOK
GYAAAH!
HEE!
AH!
HEE HEE...
GWAAH !!
CHOK
CHOK
AAH!
HEE!

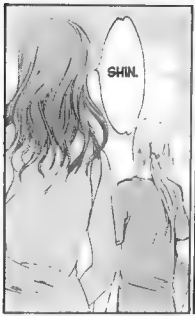
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
CHOK
CHOK
MANA.
SOMETIMES I FIND MYSELF PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE FUTILITY OF MARTIAL ARTS.
THE SEVEN PRECEPTS OF THE SAMURAI: COURAGE, LOYALTY, HUMANITY, WISDOM, GRATITUDE, SINCERITY, HONOR.
ALTHOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN TEN SHORT YEARS, I HAVE MADE A PROFOUND STUDY OF SHIN USING THESE PRECEPTS AS A FOUNDATION.
AND DESPITE ALL THAT...
...HE'S BEEN REDUCED TO THIS CRUEL...
...VULGAR MONSTER.

...WILL GLADLY YIELD TO THE POWER OF VIOLENCE IF GIVEN THE CHANCE.
BOTH MARTIAL ARTS...
...AND PEOPLE...
...BUT HE WAS EFFORTLESSLY PINNED BY SHIN'S OVERWHELMING POWER.
THEY SAID HE WAS THE STRONGEST MAN ON CAMPUS...

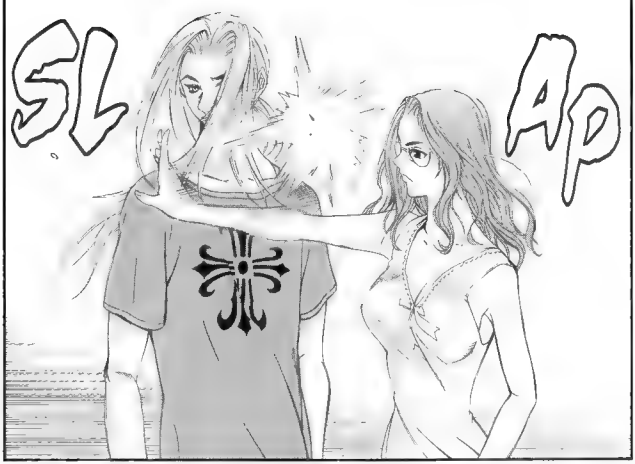
BUT FOR SOME REASON, LOOKING AT HIM FROM BEHIND...
...HE LOOKED SO SMALL AND PITIFUL.

CHOK
CHOK
CHOK


YES, MA'AM.
GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL AT ONCE.


SHIN.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THIS.
YES.
YOU'VE CALMED YOURSELF?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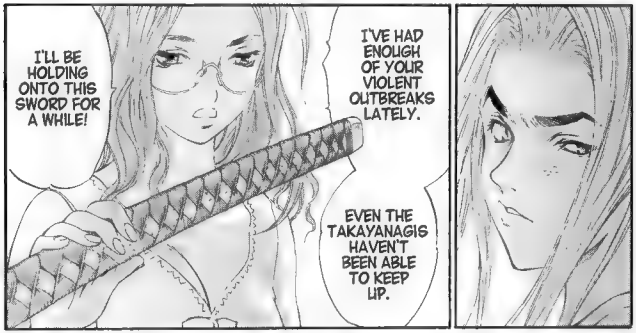

I'LL BE HOLDING ONTO THIS SWORD FOR A WHILE!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR VIOLENT OUTBREAKS LATELY.
EVEN THE TAKAYANAGIS HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP UP.

GIVE IT TO ME!
GRIP
THAT'S AN ORDER!

BU
LG
SHIN
!!

ドカ

WHA...
WHAT THE?!
...
GAH!
HEH HEH HEH.
I KNEW IT.
THUD
IT REALLY HIT ME AFTER WATCHING THAT VIDEO.

I LET YOU STAB ME SO YOU'D LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, DIMWIT!
THOSE DRAGON EYES YOU'RE SO PROUD OF...
...DON'T WORK UNLESS YOU'RE TOUCHING THAT SWORD. THEY'RE WORTHLESS!

IS HE CRAZY?
HE WOULD TAKE THAT MUCH ABUSE...
...JUST TO MAKE SHIN OVER-CONFIDENT?

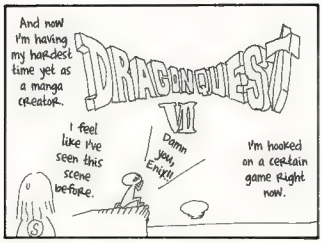
HUUNGH!
SPURT

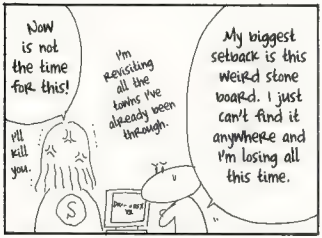
LOOM
KRICK
GROAN
KREAK
SPURT
I'LL KILL HIM EVEN IF I'M DEAD!
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY BEING READY TO DIE, CHINAMAN!

...
...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU CAN BARELY STAND AFTER ONE LITTLE HIT?
LITTLE PUSSY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE IT BACK?
HE'S GOING TO LOSE NOW.

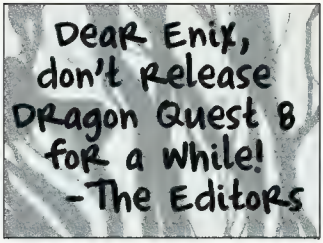
SHIN.
PAW
DOOM

PLIP PLIP
CONK
RISE AND SHINE.


And now I'm having my hardest time yet as a manga creator.
DRAGON QUEST VII
I feel like I've seen this scene before.
Damn you, Enix!!
I'm hooked on a certain game right now.

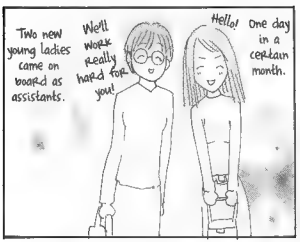

Now is not the time for this!
I'll kill you.
I'm revisiting all the towns I've already been through.
My biggest setback is this weird stone board. I just can't find it anywhere and I'm losing all this time.

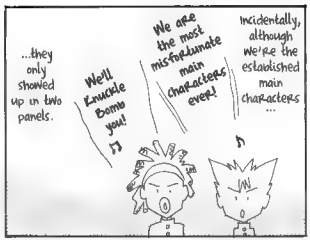
...I've seen that other creators are going through the same thing, so I feel a little better. ♡
But after reading different magazines...
Oh, I'm not the only one!



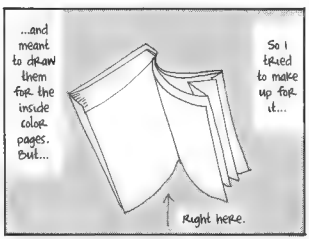
Bonus Manga With Great

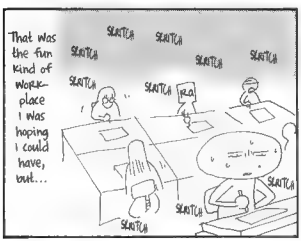
What happened to our main characters?

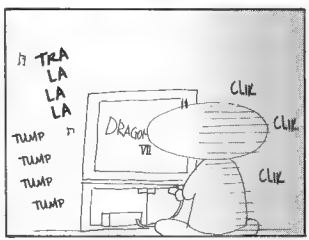

Two new young ladies came on board as assistants.
We'll work really hard for you!
Hello!
One day in a certain month.

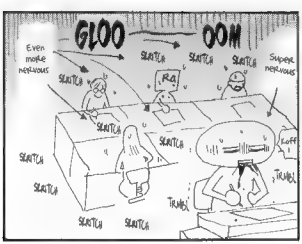

...they only showed up in two panels.
We'll Knuckle Bomb you!
We are the most misfortunate main characters ever!
Incidentally, although we're the established main characters...

GIDDY
But if you really want us to
Aaaw!
Just for reference, you know?
Could you pose like this for me?
How romantic...Fantasy!
How about I join you?
GIDDY
ha ha!
STRIP
STRIP

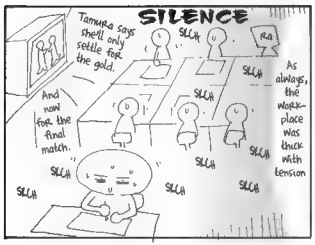

...and meant to draw them for the inside color pages. But...
So I tried to make up for it...
Right here.

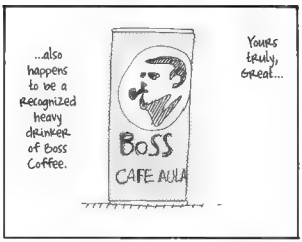

That was the fun kind of work-place I was hoping I could have, but...
SCRATCH

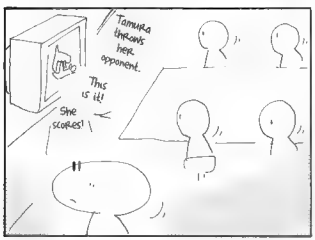

TRA LA LA LA
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
DRAGON VII
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP


GLOO
DOOM
Even more nervous
Super nervous
SCRATCH
TRUMBL

Anyway, it's only Nagi.
I was a little busy saving the world.
Uh, yeah...
What happened to the illustrations?
Huh? Where's Nagi?
DRAGON QUEST totally crushed our main heroes!
CLIK
TRUMBL

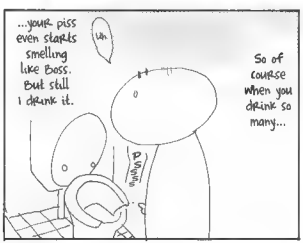

SILENCE
Tamura says she'll only settle for the gold.
SLUR
RA
And now for the final match.
As always, the workplace was thick with tension


...also happens to be a recognized heavy drinker of Boss Coffee.
BOSS
CAFE AU LA
Yours truly, Great...

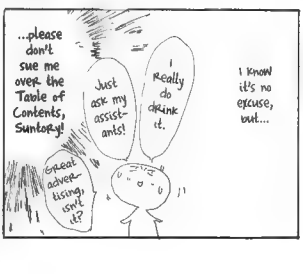

Tamura thrusts her opponent.
This is it!
She scores!

I seriously drink about five or six cans a day.
SUCK-SUCK-SUCK
Aw yeah! The Boss is Really on it today!
Every day, I draw with a Boss in one hand.

She won the gold!!
Wow!
She did it!
Yesss !!
Woooo!!!
Nice!
SHOCK


...your piss even starts smelling like Boss. But still I drink it.
Uh
So of course when you drink so many...
Pshhh

Thank you, Japan Judo Team.
It was the first time the studio felt united as one.
TEARY
And he's down!
Another win!
Next up, the men's tournament.
Yaaay!
Woot!
Yahoo!
Wee!
THE END


...please don't sue me over the Table of Contents, Suntory!
Just ask my assistants!
I really do drink it.
I know it's no excuse, but...
Great advertising, isn't it?

SERIES EDITOR: KENZO TONDA
BOOK EDITOR: AYAMI SAKURADA
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THANKS: MASAHIRO TATSUMI, CHIAKI KARASAWA,
PACIFIC, TAKASHI YASHIROGAWA,
YUKIKO ISHIGAMI, JUN YANAGISAWA,
FUJIROKU NISHIZAWA, SHIN TAKEI

A COMPILATION OF THE SERIALIZATION THAT
RAN IN *ULTRA JUMP* MAGAZINE FROM
MARCH 2000 TO OCTOBER 2000.

Here are the three things I want more than anything right now:
Sands of Time
Hustle Dance
Stampeding Sheep
The last one is just for kicks (LOL).

END
VOLUME 3
PART 1

TENJO TENGE
Oh!great

MAYA NATSUME

Tenjo Tenge

THE TASTE OF IRON TRAVELS ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE PIT OF MY STOMACH.
FROM THE CORNER OF MY MIND I HEAR THE FAINT RUMBLE OF THUNDER.
BLAST
AND THEN...
I SMELL MYSELF BURNING.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZE IT...

TENJO TENGE

CONTENTS

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PART 2

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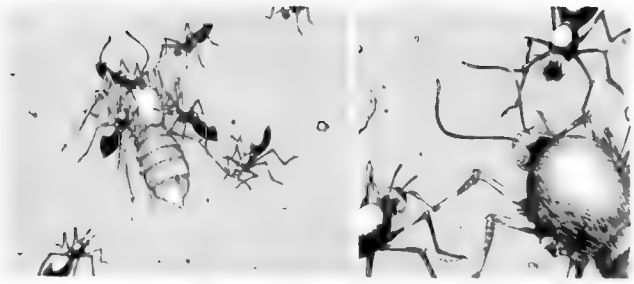
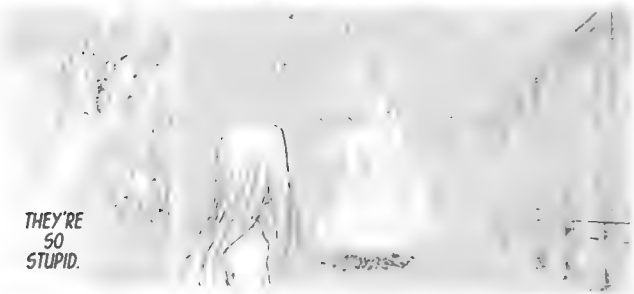
FIGHT 39 393

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
AND AT THE SAME TIME, NO LONGER A MOTH.
TECHNICALLY STILL A MOTH.
...IS...
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
A MOTH WITHOUT ITS WINGS...



EVEN THE LOWLY ANTS CRAWLING ON THE GROUND CAN EAT IT.


THEY'RE SO STUPID.

...TO GET TO THE LIGHT?
WHOOSH
...JUST...
WHY DO THEY SACRIFICE THEIR WINGS AND BURN...

FOOM

BA
VSH
ROAR
WHOA!
Is it over...?

I hereby deliver thee...
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, CALL ME...
...EXORCIST TAWARA.

GHRK
HUFF!
HUFF!
WHEEZ!
GO AHEAD. USE IT.

I SAID, USE IT.
DON'T BE SHY.
ZSH
...
LUNGE

SNAP
THUD
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
GRIT
WHAT HAPPENED, SHIN?

SLUG
FIRST YOU'RE WORKING WITH ALL THESE SHADY GOONS.
THEN YOU MAKE SWISS CHEESE OUT OF THESE GOLDEN LEGS.
!!
BISH
AND YOU EVEN BETRAYED ALL YOUR FRIENDS!

TH
OO
M

SPL
ORT
GHH
WITHOUT THAT DAMNED SWORD, YOU AIN'T WORTH SHIT IN A FIGHT.
POP
YOU FUCKING LIMP-DICK. THE KING OF ALL LIMP-DICKS!
YOU CAN'T EVEN BEAT A GIMP LIKE ME.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW...
...ABOUT ME...?
BLEAGH
Y... YOU...
TWITCH
TWITCH

I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL. YOU'RE A WALKING ENCYCLO-PEDIA OF BIZARRE FREAKI-NESS!
I DON'T!

ALL THIS BULLSHIT YOU KEEP PULLING ...

...IS WHY I'M HERE.
CRUNCH
SKREE

HE BEAT THE DRAGON EYES!
AND BARE-HANDED!
ALL BY HIMSELF.

THE KID REALLY DID IT.
HE DID IT.
HE...

HRRRAH
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BA

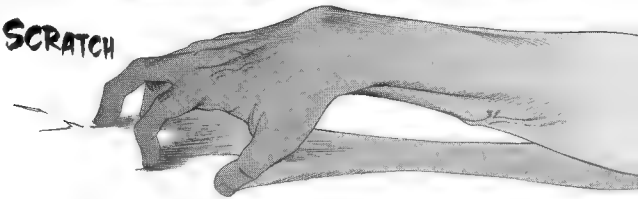
?!

BAM
BAM

YOU GAVE US A REAL SHOW!
PAT
PAT
YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING, KID!
PAT
PUT 'ER THERE!
THUD
I'M IMPRESSED!
PAT

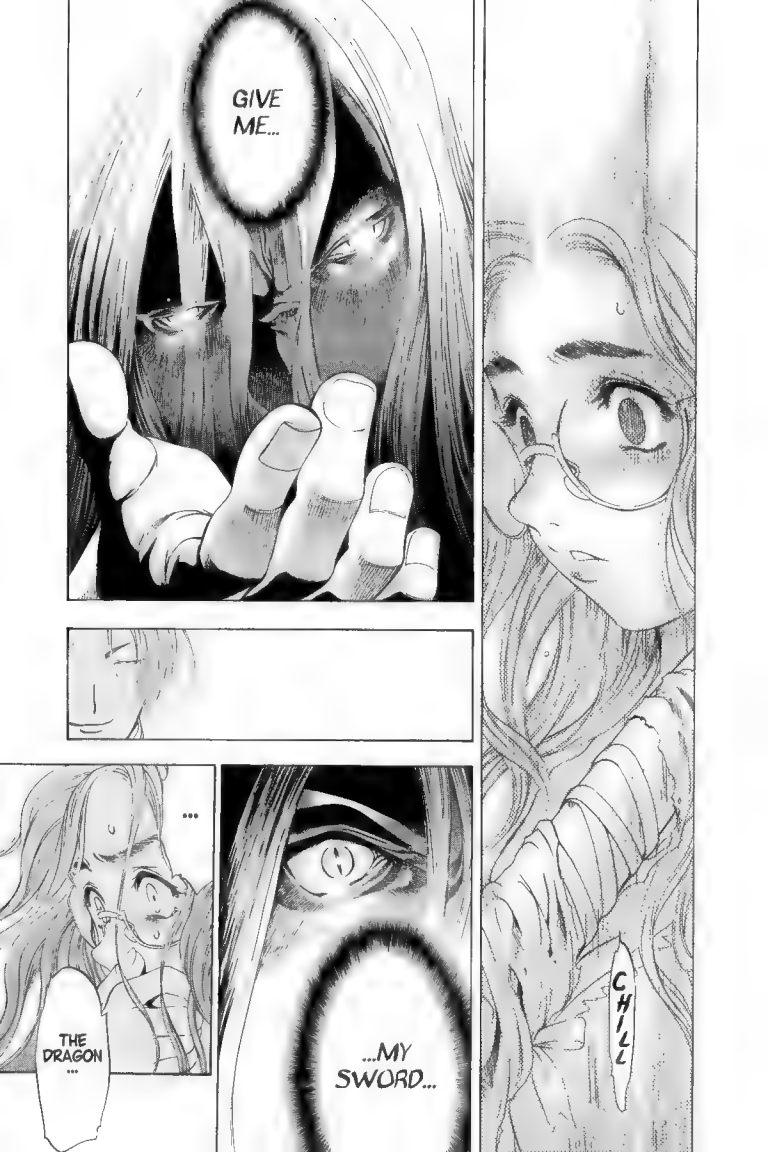
WA HA HA!
SLAP
HA HA HA!
SLAP
WE'LL MAKE A REAL MARTIAL ARTIST OUT OF YOU!
PAT
OW! OUCH!
PAT
PAT
YOU'RE SELF-TRAINED, RIGHT? JOIN OUR DOJO!
WAI ...
OW!
PAT

...
SUCH FOOLS ...
Ooh, that's the stuff!
Rough!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
I SAID, KNOCK IT OFF!
YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME?!
HIYAaaaaaaah!


SCRATCH

DRAG
SKRITCH

MY...
GEH...
KOFF!
...SWORD
DRAG
SKRITCH


GIVE ME...
CHILL
...MY SWORD...
...
THE DRAGON ...

KRACK
BSH

MY... SWORD...
...
SKRITCH

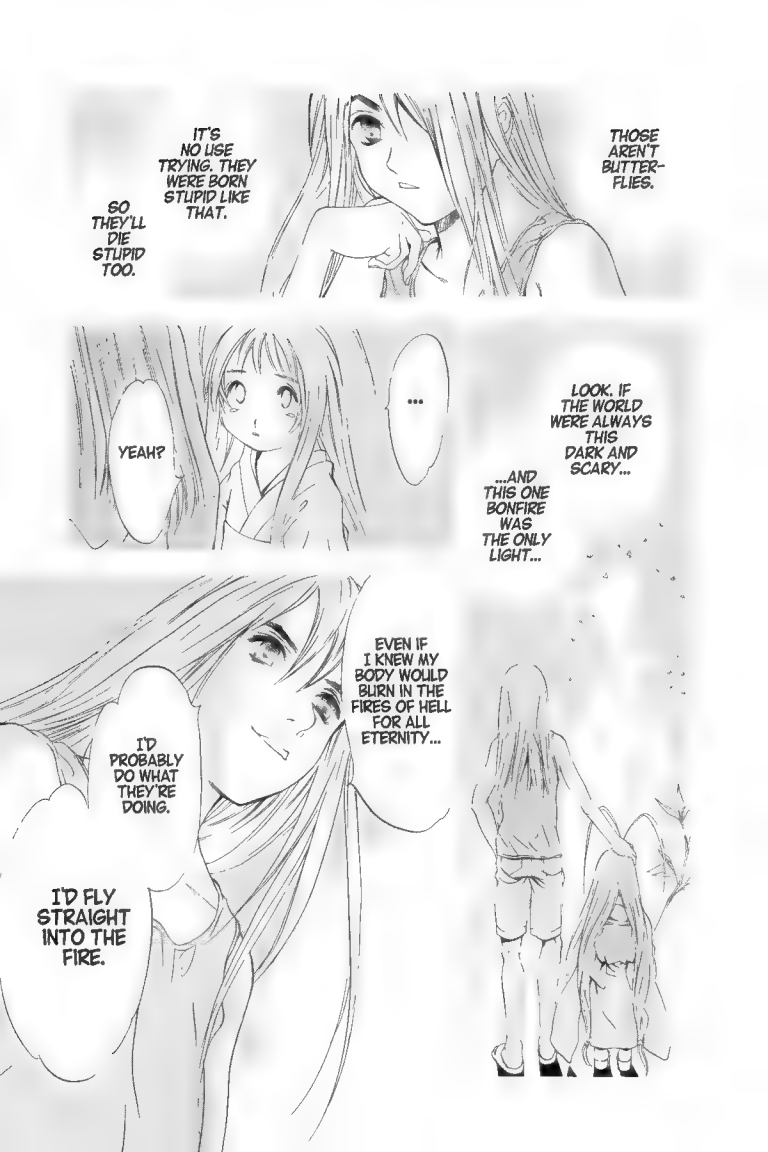
SHIN... YOU...
WHAT ON EARTH...
...WOULD PUSH YOU THAT FAR?

SKEE
SKEE
SKEE
GYAH!

SHIIIN!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

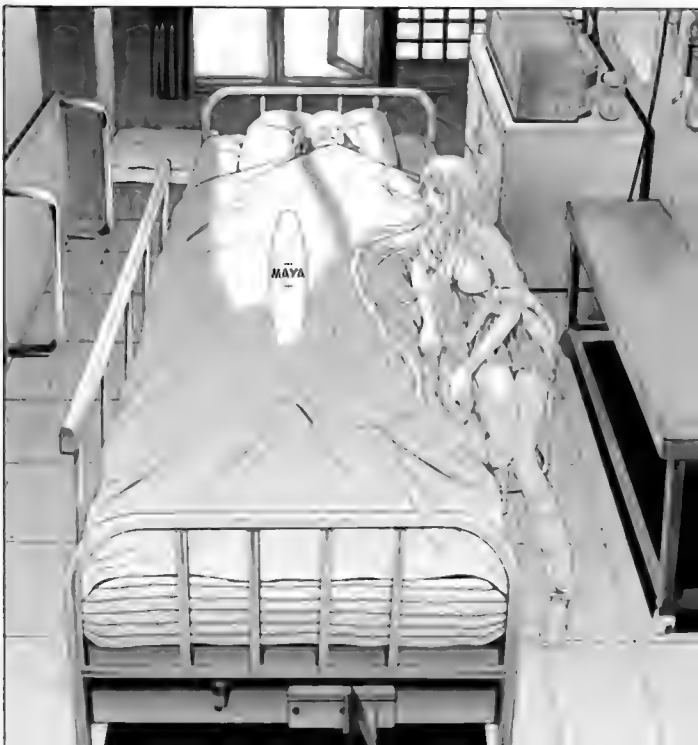
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO SHOO THEM AWAY.
THE BUTTER-FLIES ARE BURNING UP.
POP.
FZZT
FZZT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAYA?


THOSE AREN'T BUTTER-FLIES.
IT'S NO USE TRYING. THEY WERE BORN STUPID LIKE THAT.
SO THEY'LL DIE STUPID TOO.
...
YEAH?
LOOK. IF THE WORLD WERE ALWAYS THIS DARK AND SCARY...
...AND THIS ONE BONFIRE WAS THE ONLY LIGHT...
EVEN IF I KNEW MY BODY WOULD BURN IN THE FIRES OF HELL FOR ALL ETERNITY...
I'D PROBABLY DO WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
I'D FLY STRAIGHT INTO THE FIRE.

AND EVEN IF THE FIRE SCORCHED MY WINGS...
...AND I FELL TO THE GROUND, RUINED...
...IF I WASN'T EVEN RECOGNIZABLE ANYMORE...
...I KNOW FOR A FACT...
...I'D CRAWL IF I HAD TO, TO GET TO THE HEART OF THIS FLAME.

MAYA.
TO ME, YOU'RE THAT FIRE.
I HAD NO IDEA...
THANKS TO THE DRAGON EYES...
...WHAT MY BROTHER WAS TALKING ABOUT.
...MY BROTHER PROBABLY ALREADY KNEW WHERE HIS DESTINY WOULD TAKE HIM.
BACK THEN...
...I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I SAID IN RESPONSE.

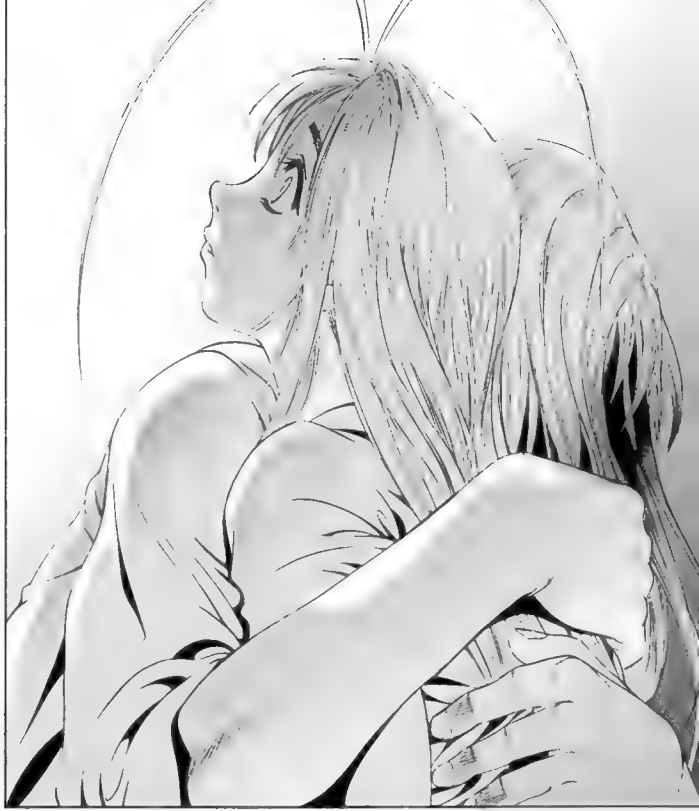
...


MAYA

MAYA
...
DON'T LEAVE ME... MAYA...
DON'T WORRY.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, SHIN.

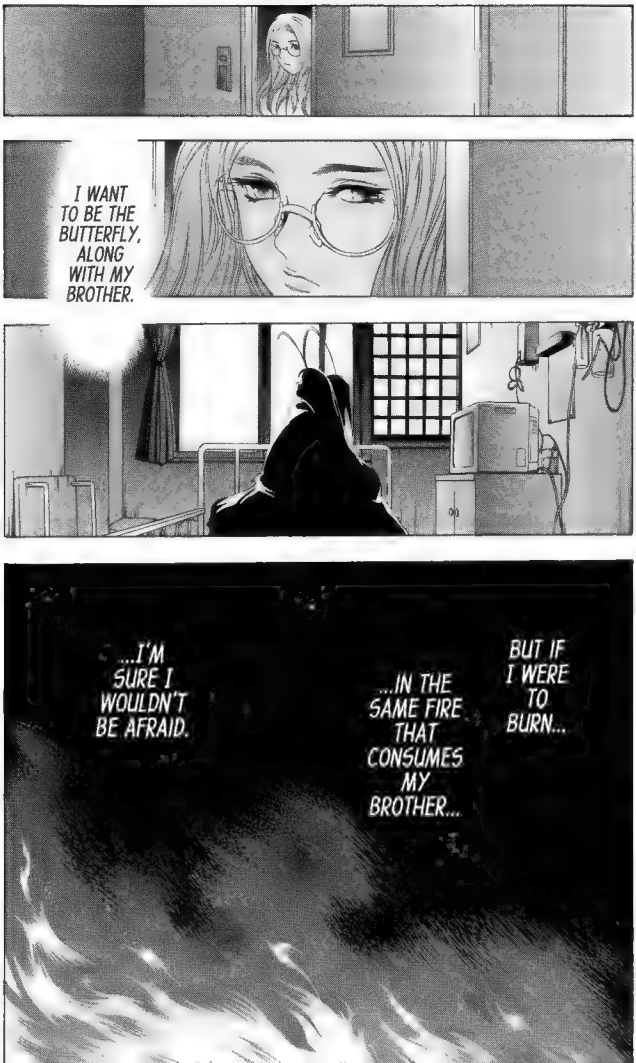
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS BEFORE.
STILL, YOU TOOK QUITE A BEATING.
I THOUGHT THAT DOING THIS...
"TO BE HONEST"
I'M ALL MIXED UP.
...STOPPING YOU BY FORCE, WAS MY JOB.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT MOTHS AND THE FIRE?
SHIN.
I THINK THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...



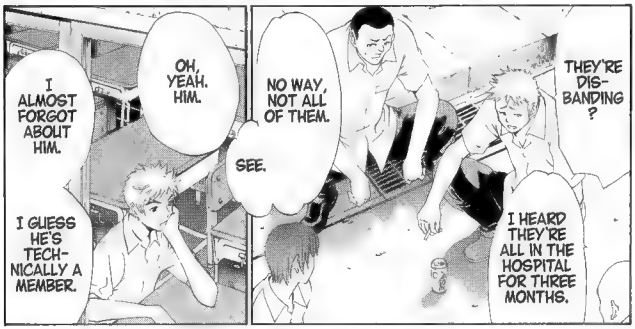
MAYA.
DON'T GO.
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
LET GO...
I DIDN'T REALIZE... YOU WERE AWAKE...
WH... WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHIN?

I'M SCARED.
MAYA.
IT'S OKAY.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ONCE IN A WHILE.
WELL...
IT'S...
...GOING TO BURN ME ALIVE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE FIRE.
I'D NEVER BURN YOU, SHIN.
GASP!
THE FLAMES...
...ARE GOING TO BURN ME...
I WANT TO BE THE BUTTER-FLY.


I WANT TO BE THE BUTTERFLY, ALONG WITH MY BROTHER.
BUT IF I WERE TO BURN...
...IN THE SAME FIRE THAT CONSUMES MY BROTHER...
...I'M SURE I WOULDN'T BE AFRAID.

FIGHT:35

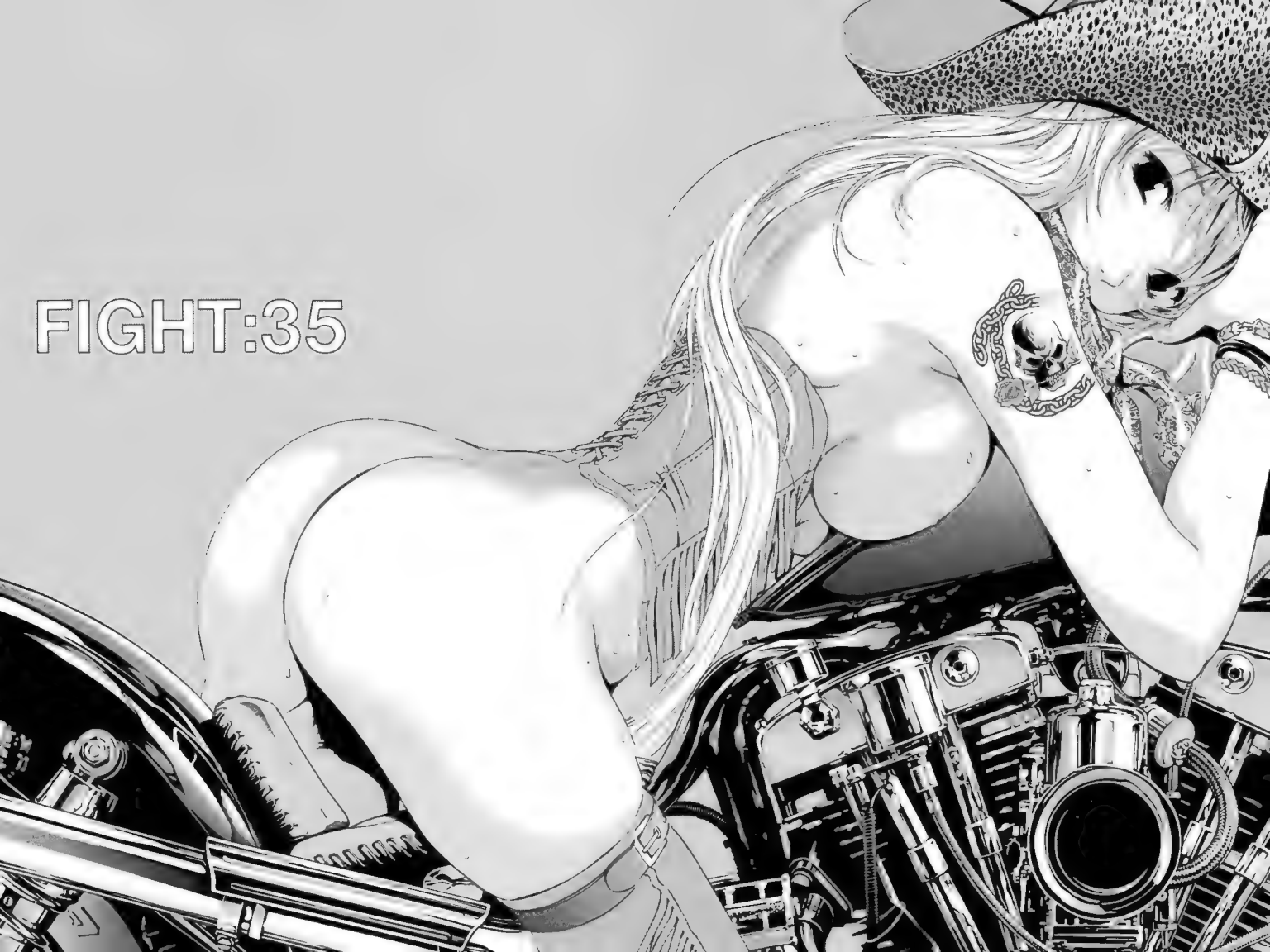
NOTHING MORE THAN THE FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN.
HUH? WHERE YOU BEEN, UNDER A ROCK?
HEY, DID YOU HEAR? ABOUT THE KATANA.
AT FIRST, IT WAS JUST SIMPLE DREAD.


I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT HIM.
OH, YEAH. HIM.
I GUESS HE'S TECHNICALLY A MEMBER.
NO WAY, NOT ALL OF THEM.
SEE.
THEY'RE DISBANDING?
I HEARD THEY'RE ALL IN THE HOSPITAL FOR THREE MONTHS.

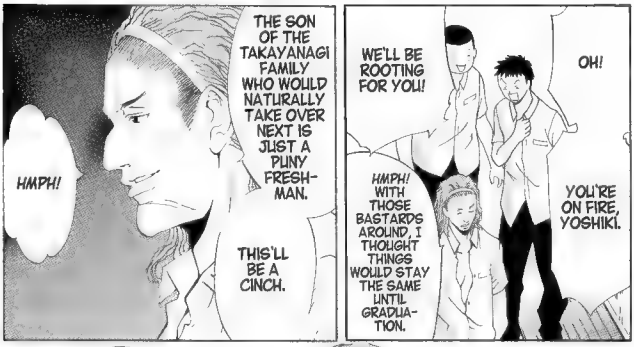
WRESTLING EACH OTHER.
YOU BARELY NOTICE WHEN HE'S AROUND.
BEFORE TOO LONG IT BECAME ENTWINED WITH ALL THE OTHER SENSATIONS. FUSING WITH THEM.
THOUGH HE'S PROBABLY STRONG.
BUT HE'S ONLY IN THANKS TO HIS FAMILY NAME.

...THIS IS THE END OF THE KATANA, ONCE AND FOR ALL.
...THE BEAST WAS GROWING.
QUIETLY, BUT PERSISTENTLY...
I GUESS...

FIGHT:35

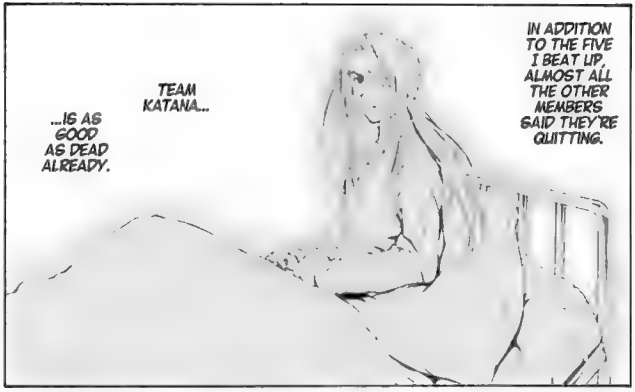


HMPH!
FINALLY, THE DAY HAS COME...
...FOR ME TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.
Captain of the Second Karate Club
Third Year: Yoshiki Kato


THE SON OF THE TAKAYANAGI FAMILY WHO WOULD NATURALLY TAKE OVER NEXT IS JUST A PUNY FRESH-MAN.
HMPH!
THIS'LL BE A CINCH.
WE'LL BE ROOTING FOR YOU!
OH!
HMPH! WITH THOSE BASTARDS AROUND, I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD STAY THE SAME UNTIL GRADUA-TION.
YOU'RE ON FIRE, YOSHIKI.

IT'LL MAKE THINGS FUN.
AW, LET HIM HAVE HIS LITTLE DREAMS.
HMPH!
TMP
TMP
AND HE REALLY THINKS THIS'LL BE A CINCH?
IS THIS GUY FOR REAL? ALL THAT TALK ABOUT "TAKING OVER THE WORLD"?
TMP
WELL ...
THEY SAY LUCK AND STRENGTH GO HAND IN HAND.

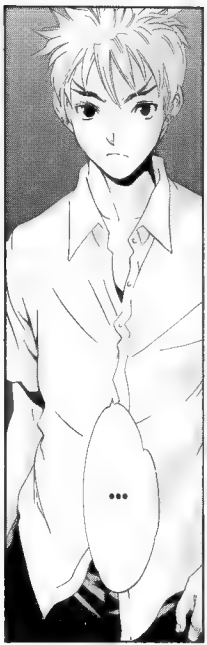
OF WHAT?
A DISBANDING MEETING?
FOR THE KATANA.
YEAH.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
MY BROTHER TOLD ME TO TELL YOU.
AND YOUR CLASS IS CONVENIENTLY RIGHT BELOW MINE.
IT'LL BE NEXT SATURDAY AT NINE. AT THE USUAL PLACE.
What're you doing up there?
NATSUME! THAT'S DANGEROUS!
AND WE CAN TOTALLY SEE YOUR UNDERWEAR.


IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE I BEAT UP, ALMOST ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS SAID THEY'RE QUITTING.
TEAM KATANA...
...IS AS GOOD AS DEAD ALREADY.

AND THOUGH I CALL IT A MEETING, PROBABLY NO ONE ELSE WILL SHOW UP BESIDES ME.
BUT TELL MITSUOMI FOR ME.
TELL HIM I WANT HIM TO COME.

"THERE'S SOMETHING I VERY MUCH NEED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT."
THAT'S ALL HE SAID!
I PASSED ALONG HIS MESSAGE.

I...
I MEAN...
I...
W...WAIT A MINUTE!
KTK
KTK
KTK
WHY ME?!
...
TWITCH
SMASH
HIYAAAAH!


...

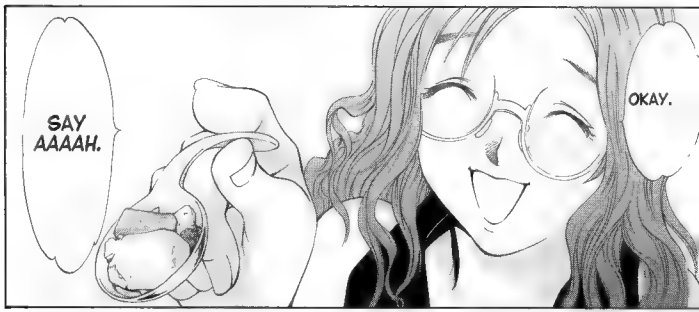
SAY HELLO TO THE MUCH ACCLAIMED BEST CANDIDATE FOR NEXT SEMESTER'S CLASS PRESIDENT. KATO THE GREAT!
NO USE TRYING TO HIDE FROM ME!
"EH"?
WHERE'S THIS MITSUOMI TAKAYANAGI GUY, EH?!

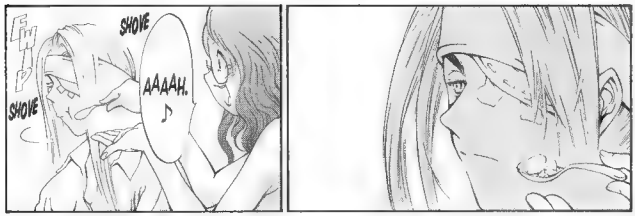
DON'T TRY TO GIVE ME THE SLIP!
THREE O'CLOCK AFTER SCHOOL, BEHIND THE SECOND GYM BUILDING.
HMPH!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE FOLLOWED HIM.
HE ACTUALLY THINKS HE'S A MATCH FOR THIS GUY.
SHIT, HE'S SERIOUS.

SLH
SHF

YOU, HUH?
SHF

WOW, HE EVEN MADE A FORMAL CHALLENGE? IMPRESSIVE.
...
THE GUYS AT THIS SCHOOL ARE A FUN BUNCH.
BY THE WAY, THIS'LL BE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL FIGHT DEBUT.
GOOD LUCK, KID.
...!!
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL

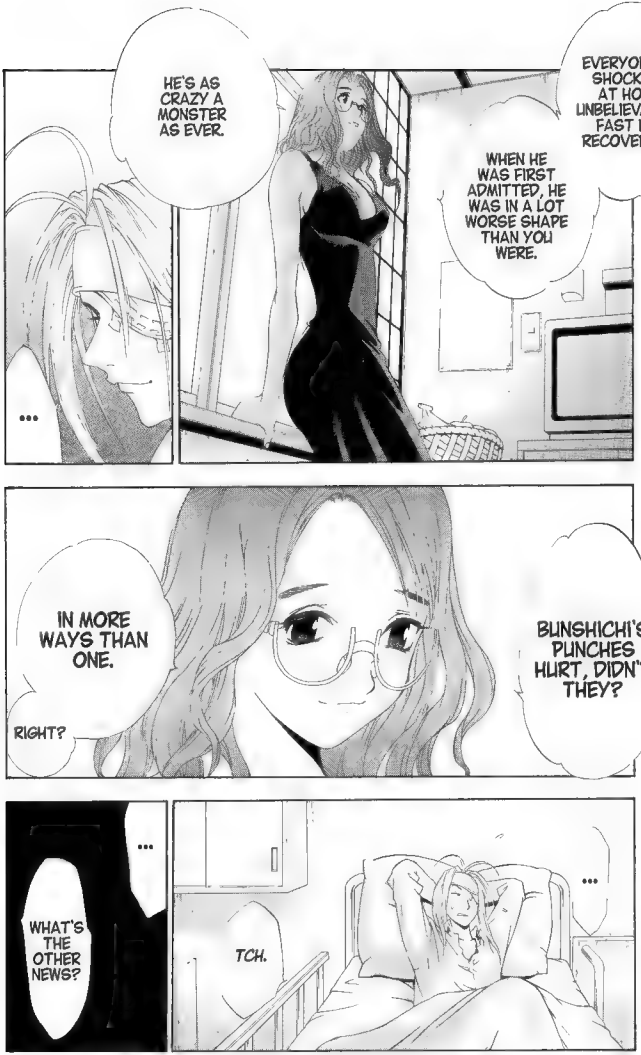

SAY AAAAH.
OKAY.


SHOVE
AAAAH. ♪
SHOVE

GRIP
...
GRIP
AAAAH. ♡

SNAP

BASH
SIGH.
SMASH
BLEAH
I'M SURE IT TASTES A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER THAN THE LUNCHES MAYA MAKES FOR YOU.
I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO MEAN.
SHSH
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAME HERE FOR FUN.
FIRST, BUNSHICHI WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL TODAY.
I HAVE TWO THINGS TO REPORT.

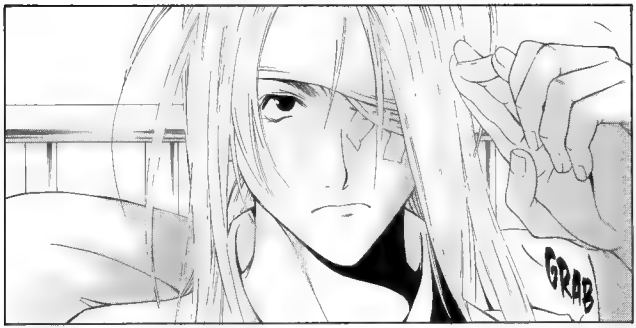

EVERYONE'S SHOCKED AT HOW UNBELIEVABLY FAST HE RECOVERED.
WHEN HE WAS FIRST ADMITTED, HE WAS IN A LOT WORSE SHAPE THAN YOU WERE.
HE'S AS CRAZY A MONSTER AS EVER.
...
BUNSHICHI'S PUNCHES HURT, DIDN'T THEY?
IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
RIGHT?
...
WHAT'S THE OTHER NEWS?
...
TCH.

AND YOUR REWARD FOR THE DATA— THE FINANCIAL COMPENSATION AND...
THE UPPER MANAGEMENT DECIDED THAT THEY HAD "NO FURTHER NEED FOR DATA SAMPLES FROM SHIN NATSUME."
...THE PROTECTION OF THE TAKAYANAGI FAMILY— WILL CEASE IMMEDIATELY.
...HAS BEEN REVOKED, AS OF TODAY.
...
THE 24-HOUR SURVEILLANCE ON YOU...
...AT LEAST NOW, YOU'RE A FREE MAN.
BUT...
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'VE NO MORE USE FOR SECONDHAND GOODS LIKE ME?
...ENDS TODAY AS WELL.
AND MY "JOB"...

HONESTLY...
...WHEN I FIRST GOT THIS "JOB"...
...I HATED IT SO MUCH I WANTED TO DIE.
CAN YOU REALLY BLAME ME?
I GREW UP COMPLETELY PRIVILEGED IN A RESPECTABLE FAMILY...
...AND SUDDENLY I'M REDUCED TO PLAYING THE ROLE OF "COMFORT WOMAN" FOR A DATA SAMPLE LIKE YOU.

YOU HAD A SISTER-COMPLEX A MILE WIDE, YOU WERE STUBBORN, PIGHEADED...
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE...
...AND COMPLETELY UNPREDICTABLE WHEN YOU GOT MAD. A REAL JEKYLL & HYDE.
...ALL YOU HAD GOING FOR YOU WERE YOUR LOOKS. OTHER THAN THAT, YOU WERE A TOTAL TRAIN WRECK.

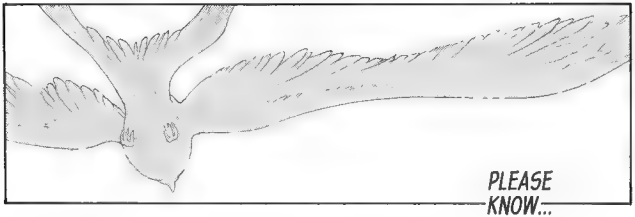
NOT TO MENTION ...
...A MURDERER.


GRAB

...YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
AND SINCE THEN...

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT ME.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE I FIRST MET YOU.
THMP
THMP
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S CHANGED...
THMP
...IS ME.
EVEN WITHOUT ME...
...HAVING TO SAY IT...
EVEN WITHOUT YOUR DRAGON EYES...

AHEM



...THAT
YOU'RE NOT
ALONE.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT...

...EVEN YOU CAN'T LIVE ALL ALONE.

KTNK
I GET THE FEELING...
...YOU'LL NEVER GIVE MY LUNCHES A CHANCE.

THREE O'CLOCK BEHIND THE GYM...
...
IT'S ALREADY PAST THE TIME...
...
...SHIT.
CRUSH

DAMN IT!
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
WALKING ON TIP-TOES, BACK HERE...
...EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LOSE TO THOSE GUYS.
SHIT!
HISS
...
THUMP
SHUT UP!
THUMP
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LOSE...
NO WAY IN HELL!!

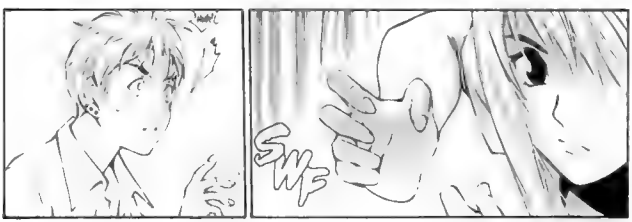
WHAT THE...

SWSH
WH... WHAT THE HELL?!
THIS WAS MY FIGHT!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!

I'M ASKING YOU...
...IF YOU COULD'VE BEATEN THESE GUYS, IN THE SHAPE YOU'RE IN!
COULD YOU HAVE WON?
WHA ...?
...!!
I'M NOT ABOUT TO SIT BACK AND LET ANYONE ELSE BUT ME...
...BEAT YOU UP AND LEAVE YOU CRAWLING ON THE GROUND.
LET ALONE SOME SNIVELING ANTS LIKE THESE.
HS
I CAN HEAR IT...
...TOO.

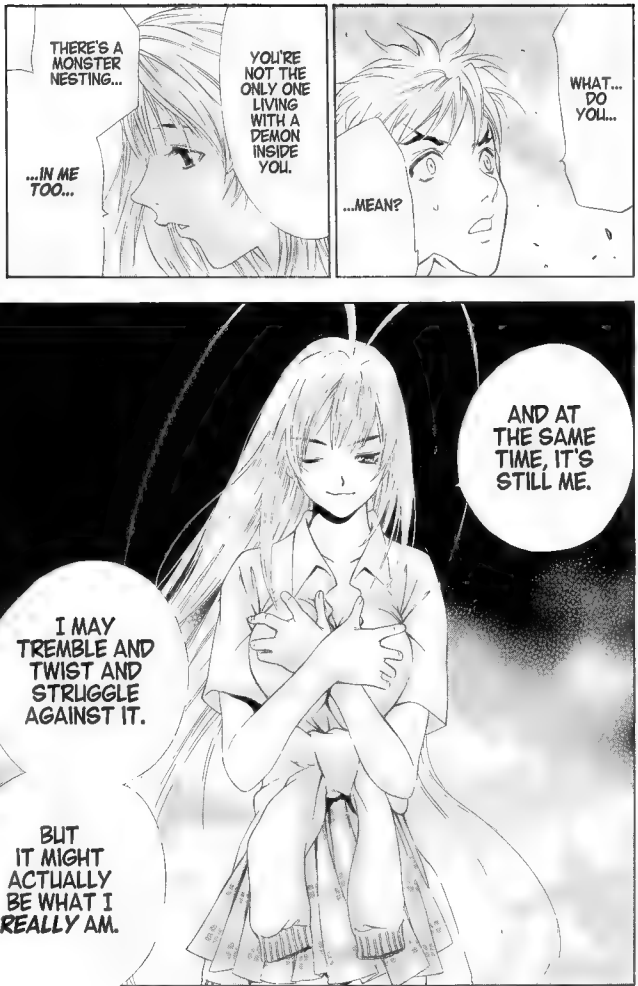
THE VOICE OF THE BEAST INSIDE YOU.

!!

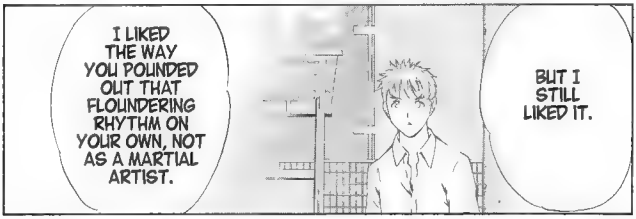

SWIP

BOO
TOO SLOW!
OM
...!!
THE STIFFNESS OF YOUR MUSCLES ROBS YOU OF ANY SPEED.
AND YOUR HESITATION DULLS YOUR REFLEXES.
SKID
SKID
MITSU-OMI.
IF YOU CAN'T MASTER YOUR OWN FEAR, YOU'LL NEVER BE A MARTIAL ARTIST.

I COULD GO ON.
OR AM I JUST REALLY UNDERESTIMATING YOU?


THERE'S A MONSTER NESTING...
...IN ME TOO...
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE LIVING WITH A DEMON INSIDE YOU.
...MEAN?
WHAT... DO YOU...
AND AT THE SAME TIME, IT'S STILL ME.
I MAY TREMBLE AND TWIST AND STRUGGLE AGAINST IT.
BUT IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE WHAT I REALLY AM.

YOU SAID IT WASN'T A PROPER FIGHTING STYLE.
REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE PUNCHING OUT THAT IRREGULAR RHYTHM IN THE DOJO?


I LIKED THE WAY YOU POUNDED OUT THAT FLOUNDERING RHYTHM ON YOUR OWN, NOT AS A MARTIAL ARTIST.
BUT I STILL LIKED IT.

THERE'S LIFE IN YOUR FISTS.
AND THE SONG THEY SING IS MUSIC TO MY EARS.

FIGHT:36

VROOOOOOOOOM
RM
RM
RM
FLASH
RM
RM
RM
RM
...
SHIN.
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT A DISBANDING MEETING?
AND WHY DID YOU ONLY WANT ME TO COME?
WHAT?
I JUST REMEMBERED.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I FORGOT TO KILL.

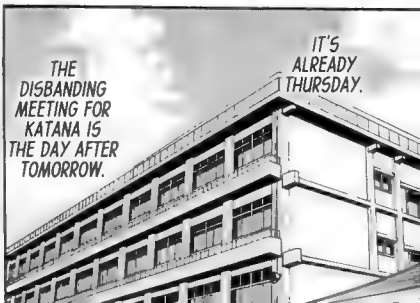
WAAAAH!
SHOCK
WHP WHP WHP WHP W
PUTT PUTT PUTT PUTT PUTT PUTT P
Mitsu-omi...
And you're going after Maya too, aren't you...?
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
Mitsu-omi...
How dare you sleep with Mana...
BA
SH
AH!
GRAB
MITSUOMI!

HUH?
Shiitake Sensei?
UH...

...

RUUUUMBLE
BUT IF YOU THINK THE INSTRUCTORS AT THIS SCHOOL ARE JUST AVERAGE TEACHERS, THINK AGAIN!
NOTHING LESS FROM MY FAVORITE PUPIL. THAT WAS A GOOD PUNCH.
THAT WASN'T I MEAN...
UH...
I'M SORRY ...
PWIK
RIP

AND ME.
THOUGH IT'S HARD TO CALL IT A REAL MEETING, THERE PROBABLY WON'T BE ANYBODY ELSE THERE BESIDES SHIN.


THE DISBANDING MEETING FOR KATANA IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
IT'S ALREADY THURSDAY.

TO BE HONEST...
...I DON'T REALLY FEEL UP TO GOING EITHER.
THERE'S A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE...
...THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN MY DREAM WILL COME TRUE.
!!
SHE'S SKIPPING CLASS AGAIN.
HAS SHE EVER SHOWN UP TO CLASS EVEN ONCE?

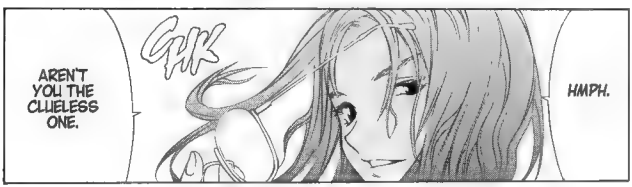
KUZUNOHA?! WHY...
NO... IT COULDN'T BE...
...
WHY...
...ME?
Sssh!
AND AS SEEN WITH THE DAITO STYLE...
SNEAK SNEAK

I'D BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO GET ADMITTED TO OUR SCHOOL.
THE WHOLE TIME.
I DON'T GET IT.
TELL HIM I WANT HIM TO COME.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?!
WHY ME?
BAH

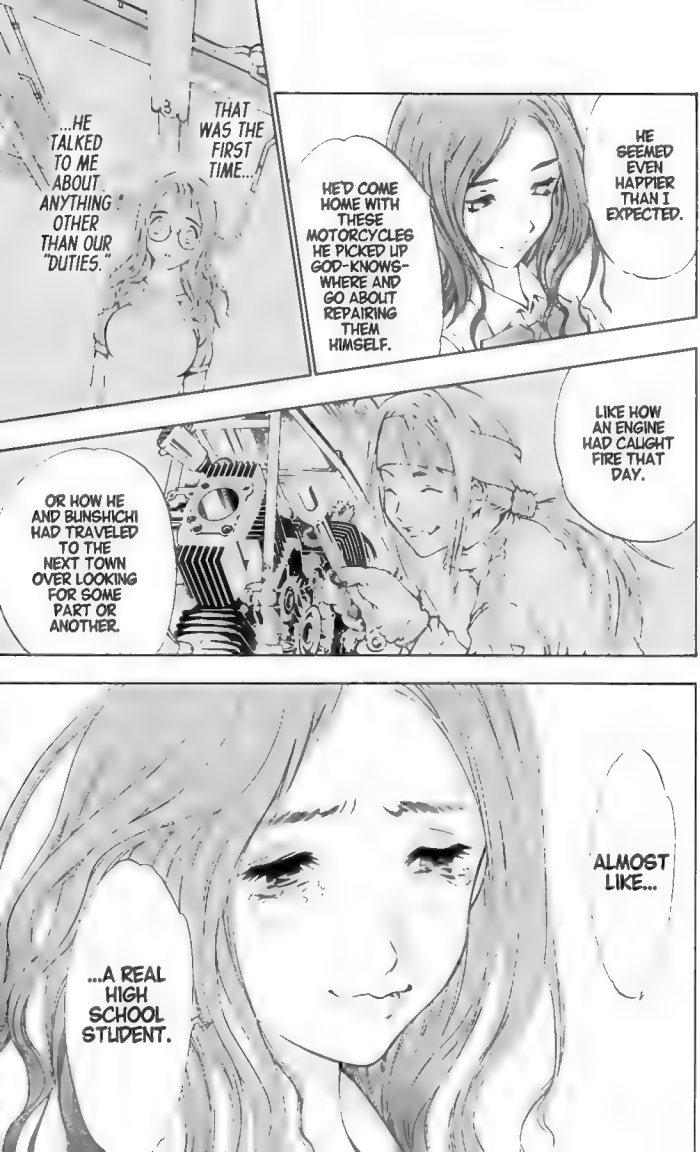
LOVELY WEATHER WE'RE HAVING.
ZSHHHHHHHHHH
ZSHH
...
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?
NAH.
I was planning to ditch anyway.
SORRY FOR SUDDENLY SUMMONING YOU OUT HERE.
BITCH.
YOU'RE NOT SO STUPID THAT YOU HAVE TO ASK, OR ARE YOU?
WHOOSH
DON'T DISAPPOINT ME.

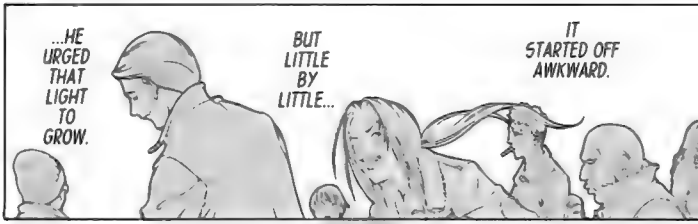
FWP

BUT I HAVE NO REASON TO FIGHT YOU.
PIIIING
IT'S MY POLICY TO ACCEPT ANY CHALLENGE.

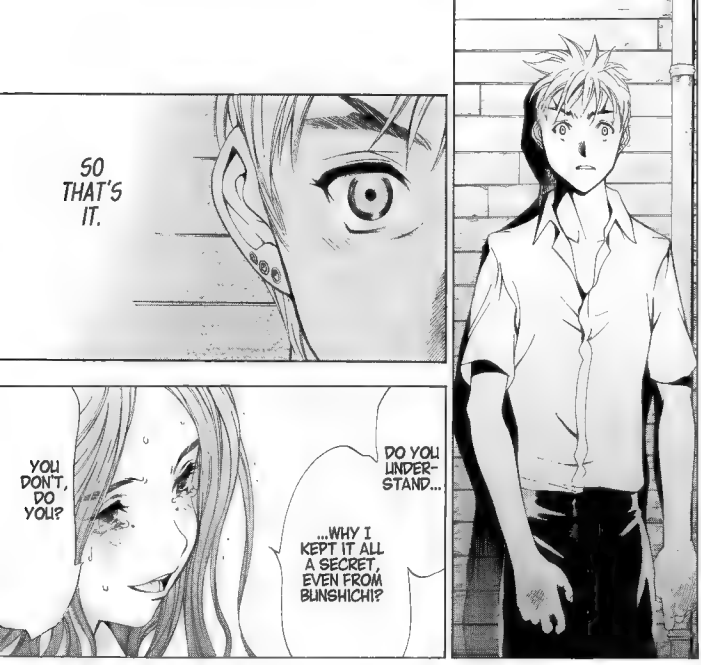

AREN'T YOU THE CLUELESS ONE.
GHK
HMPH.

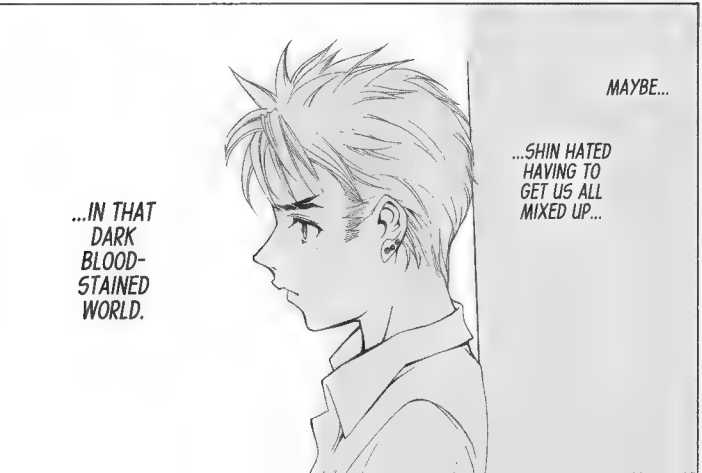
I COULD'VE SWORN THEY WENT THIS WAY.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION...
OH!
KUZU-
I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED TO SHIN THAT HE START UP KATANA THREE YEARS AGO.
I TOLD HIM HE MUST BE BORED JUST BEING OBSERVED DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT, NOT DOING ANYTHING ELSE.
THAT WAS THE SIMPLE REASONING I PRESENTED HIM.
BUT IN TRUTH, IT WAS AN ORDER FROM THE TAKAYANAGI FAMILY IN THE HOPES THAT THEY'D BE ABLE TO OBTAIN EVEN MORE DATA THAN IF HE JUST SPENT HIS SCHOOL DAYS LIKE A NORMAL STUDENT.
OF COURSE, I'M SURE HE KNEW THAT JUST AS WELL AS I DID.
...
BUT...
WHP


...HE TALKED TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN OUR "DUTIES."
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
HE'D COME HOME WITH THESE MOTORCYCLES HE PICKED UP GOD-KNOWS-WHERE AND GO ABOUT REPAIRING THEM HIMSELF.
HE SEEMED EVEN HAPPIER THAN I EXPECTED.
OR HOW HE AND BUNSHICHI HAD TRAVELED TO THE NEXT TOWN OVER LOOKING FOR SOME PART OR ANOTHER.
LIKE HOW AN ENGINE HAD CAUGHT FIRE THAT DAY.
...A REAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
ALMOST LIKE...

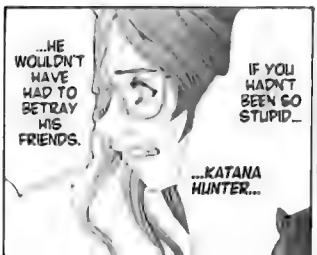


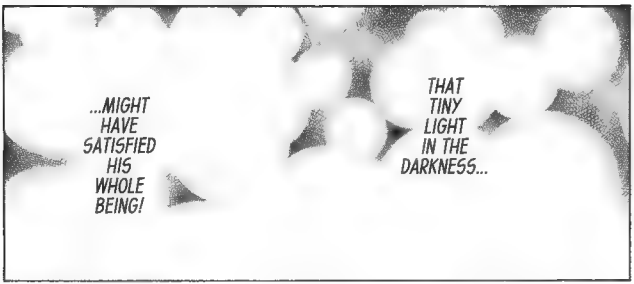
THAT LIGHT OF FRIENDSHIP THAT HE TREASURED.


SO THAT'S IT.
YOU DON'T, DO YOU?
...WHY I KEPT IT ALL A SECRET, EVEN FROM BUNSHICHI?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND...


...IN THAT DARK BLOOD-STAINED WORLD.
...SHIN HATED HAVING TO GET US ALL MIXED UP...
MAYBE...

AND THEN YOU WENT...
...AND DESTROYED IT ALL.

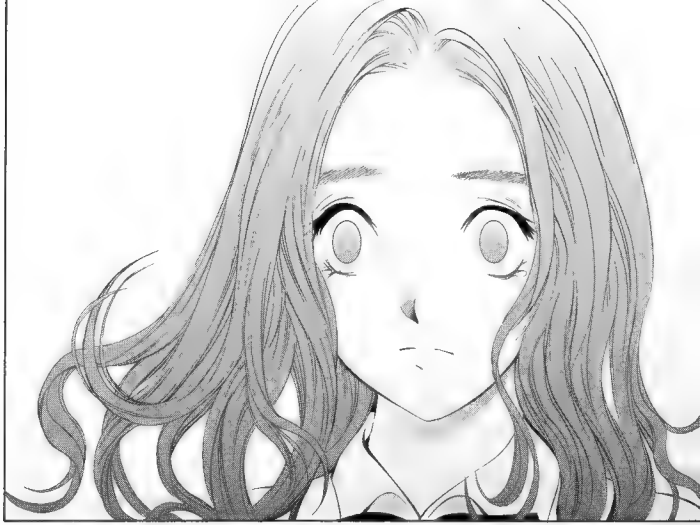

...HE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO BETRAY HIS FRIENDS.
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SO STUPID...
...KATANA HUNTER...

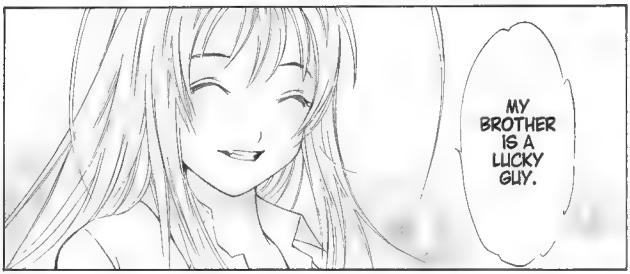

...MIGHT HAVE SATISFIED HIS WHOLE BEING!
THAT TINY LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS...

...YOU'RE TELLING ME.
GUHH
THAT'S A FUNNY STORY...

...IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE MY BROTHER CHOSE TO PUT HIMSELF THERE.
SO IF HE WAS SURROUNDED BY DARKNESS...
LIGHT AND DARKNESS GO HAND IN HAND.

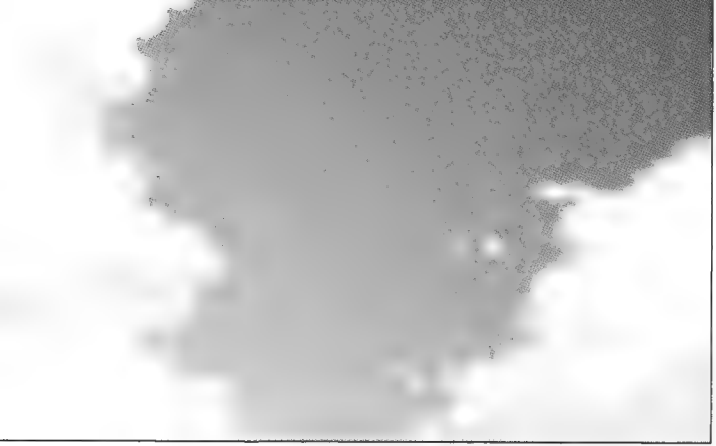
...IS
OVERFLOWING
WITH LIGHT.
I MEAN, LOOK AROUND YOU..
JUST LOOK AT HOW THE WORLD...

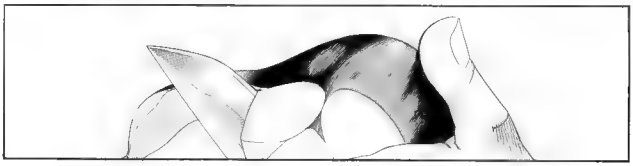


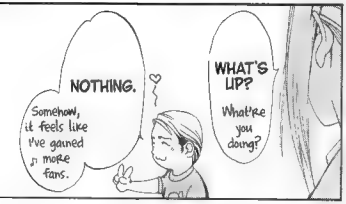

MY BROTHER IS A LUCKY GUY.

...A GUY GETS TWO BEAUTIFUL GIRLS LIKE US TO LOOK AFTER HIS EVERY NEED.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY...






NOTHING.
Somehow, it feels like I've gained ♪ more fans.
WHAT'S UP?
What're you doing?

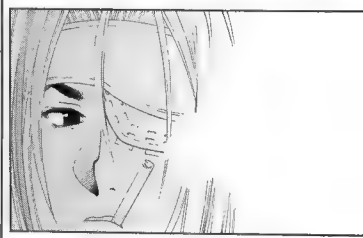
...

I NEVER SAID I WANTED A POTATO.
WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO BE?
EAT UP.
Don't piss me off.
HERE, I PEELED THIS FOR YOU, SHIN.
Fine, I'll make apple sauce for you.
GRIII
...
PULP
PULP
ROLL
ROLL

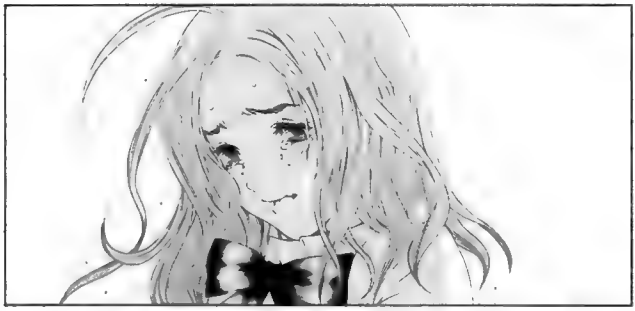
BUN-SHICHI...
CHIK
WHAT'D YOU COME HERE FOR?

THAT'S SOOO LAME!!
DID YOU JUST SAY "CHUM" ?!
I've never heard someone actually use that word in real life!
JAB
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
YOU'RE LIKE STRAIGHT OUTTA SOME STUPID SITCOM!
You gonna tell me you love me next?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! YOU GOTTA BE JOKING!

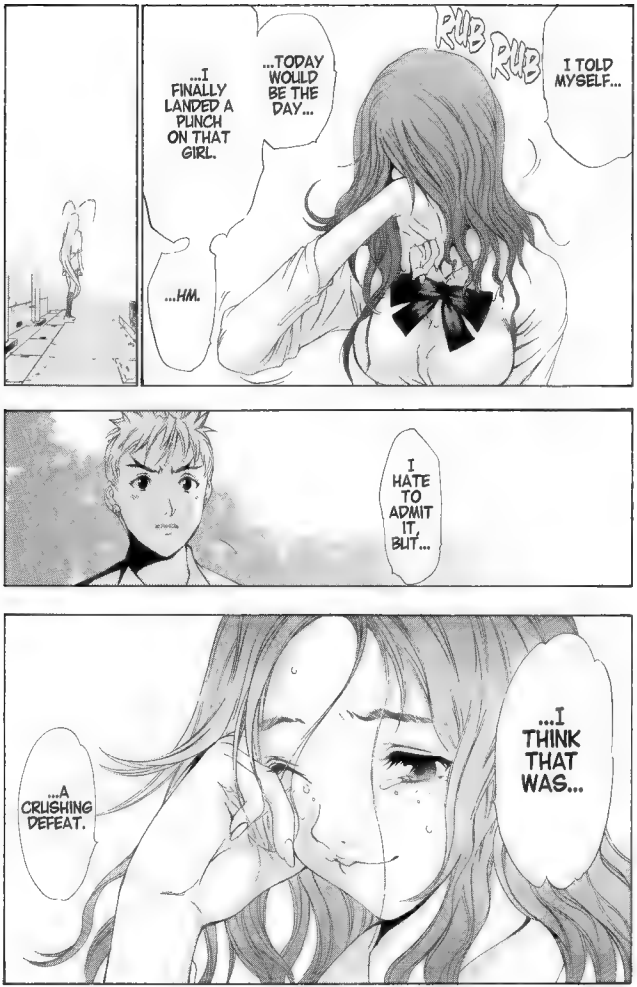
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
TO VISIT A CHUM IN THE HOSPITAL.



PLEASE, GO RIGHT AHEAD.
POP
CRACK
POP
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'VE GOT A METRIC SHIT-TON OF STUFF I WANT TO ASK YOU.
SO WHY...
...DID YOU ONLY INVITE MITSU-OMI?
IT'S TRUE.
THE MEETING'S THIS SATUR-DAY.
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT KATANA BREAKING UP?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A MOTORCYCLE ANYMORE.
YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE IT ON THOSE LEGS.
I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
SMASH

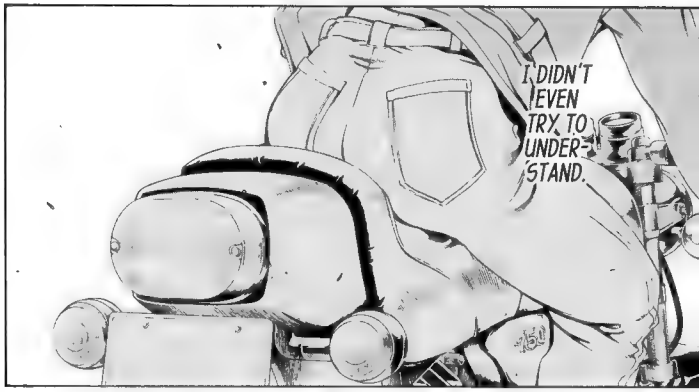


I'M SORRY.
...
YOU SAW THE WHOLE THING?
SHF


I TOLD MYSELF...
RUB RUB
...TODAY WOULD BE THE DAY...
...I FINALLY LANDED A PUNCH ON THAT GIRL.
...HM.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT...
...I THINK THAT WAS...
...A CRUSHING DEFEAT.

ギターホテル
YUKI
VRRR
RRRRRRRRM
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

...THAT GAVE ME ONE MORE REASON TO GET CLOSER TO YOU.
BUT AFTER YOU STARTED FALLING FOR MAYA...
AT FIRST, IT WAS SOMETHING COMPLETELY UNRELATED.
...I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...SHIN WOULD'VE BEEN DEVASTATED.
I DECIDED I HAD TO DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO GET IN THE WAY.
AFTER ALL, IF YOU HAD REALLY HIT IT OFF WITH HER...



...AND THE SADNESS HE SUFFERED...

TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
CLUNK
AND EVEN...
...THE TASTE OF THIS FEAR...
...YOU'RE AFRAID OF A LITTLE CONFRONTATION. HA!
DON'T TELL ME...
GET OVER HERE!

HEY ASSHOLE!
VROOM
VROOM
PHEW...
I'M...
...PATHETIC.
WHAT AM I DOING ALONE...
YEAH.
...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
HUH?

BUT IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE WHAT I REALLY AM.
I MAY TREMBLE AND TWIST AND STRUGGLE AGAINST IT.
YEAH!
THIS IS NO TIME TO HESITATE.
MITSUOMI TAKA-YANAGI!!

SKRK SKRK SKRK SKRK
KRRK
TIME TO GET OVER IT.

HEY.
AND MYSELF !!
OVER THIS GUY...
YO.

DUDE'S A...
...MON-STER...
SSSSHH
D...
RATTLE
RATTLE

FIGHT:37
VRRRM
HOW FAST ARE YOU, MITSUOMI?
AT AN EASY PACE, IT'LL TAKE ABOUT 20 MINUTES.
IT'S ABOUT 10 KILOMETERS TO THE BAY FROM HERE.
YO
SQUIRT.
SAY THAT AFTER YOU'VE WON.
AT LEAST, TODAY.
FASTER THAN YOU, SHIN.

VRRR

HAH!
HA HA!
THE KATANA.
VROOM
THIS WAS A CANNON-BALL RUN TO SEE WHO GOT TO THE FINISH LINE FIRST.
THIS WAS NO BIKER GANG RUN WHERE WE ASSEMBLE THE TROOPS AND ZIGZAG THROUGH THE CITY, WITH THE ROAR OF OUR ENGINES IN OUR WAKE.
SKR
VOOM
EEEEE

AT AROUND 150 KPH, WE ENTERED A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD.
WE WOVE OUR WAY THROUGH THE COMPLEX FLOW OF TRAFFIC, OUR NERVES AS SHARP AS KNIVES.
VRO
CARS FROZEN MOTION-LESS ON THE ROAD.
SKID
AND...
THE WIND WAS A WALL THAT THREATENED TO RIP ME OFF MY BIKE.
AS THE SOUND OF THE WIND SLOWLY FADED AWAY, I BEGAN TO HEAR A SIREN.
...A VOICE THAT WAS ALL TOO CLEAR...
...WHEN I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HEAR IT AT ALL.
MITSUOMI!

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT WE'RE ALL BORN...
...COMPLETELY NAKED INTO THIS WORLD?
VRRRRR
I THINK IT'S A LOAD OF BULLSHIT.
HUMANS ARE BORN WITH ALL SORTS OF THINGS IN THEIR POSSESSION ALREADY.
LIKE YOUR POSITION AS HEIR TO THE TAKAYANAGI FAMILY.
AND THIS INNATE POWER I HAVE.

HA HA!
THAT'S OUR ONE SAVING GRACE.
...
BUT...
THE CLOTHES THAT PEOPLE PUT ON AFTER THAT ARE ALL DIFFERENT.
THE CONVERSATION WE HELD AT THAT INCREDIBLE SPEED...
...WAS SOMETHING ONLY OTHERS RACING AS FAST AS US COULD'VE HEARD.
YOU THINK...
...YOU CAN CATCH ME, MITSUOMI?
I WAS ALWAYS...
...LOOKING AT THIS GUY FROM BEHIND AS I FLEW AFTER HIM.

KRE

KRO
OOH
ZWISH
AH...?

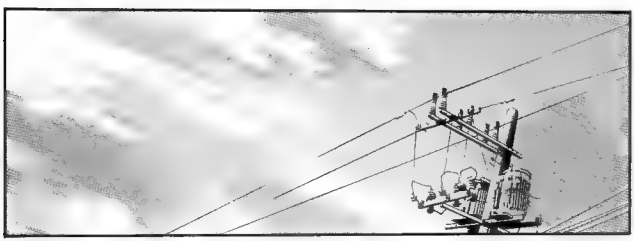
SHIN...
IF I...
MITSUOMI.
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIS OWN POWER, HE WAS ALONE.
I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD AND TAKE THE LEAD NOW.
...HAD FOUGHT LONG AND HARD ALL BY HIMSELF TO GET HERE.
HE...

...
...SOMEBODY WOULD CHECK MY POWER IF IT EVER RAN WILD.
I THOUGHT THAT SO LONG AS THE TAKA-YANAGIS KEPT AN EYE ON ME...
...
BUT OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, THERE WAS NEVER ANYONE KIND ENOUGH TO DO THAT FOR ME.

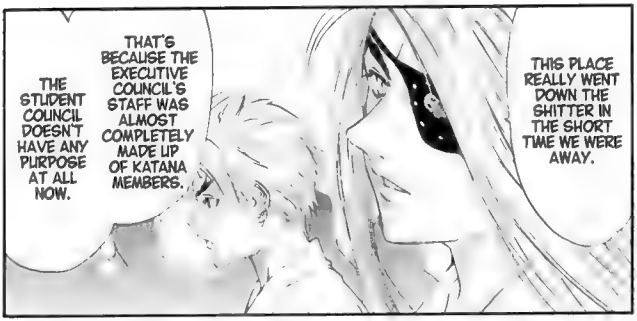
THAT NIGHT, I FINALLY UNDER-STOOD.
IF HE LOSES THAT FIGHT...
...I'LL BE THE ONE DRAWING THE CURTAIN.
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED.

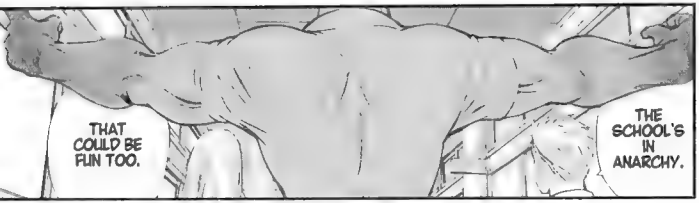
ASSHOLES.
HRMMM.

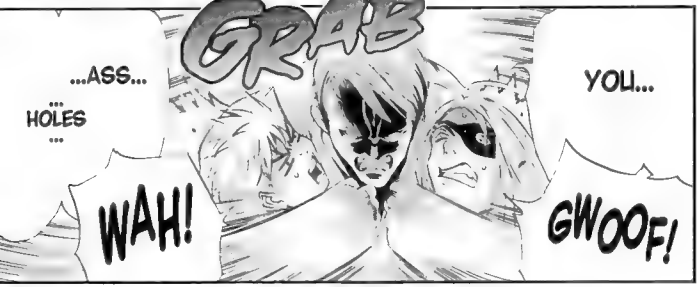
VWEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
DISPAWNING WEE!
WHERE DID THOSE TWO RUN OFF TO?
LEAVING ME ALL ALONE LIKE THIS.
HEEEY!



PLOP
VISH
SCURRY


THIS PLACE REALLY WENT DOWN THE SHITTER IN THE SHORT TIME WE WERE AWAY.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S STAFF WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY MADE UP OF KATANA MEMBERS.
THE STUDENT COUNCIL DOESN'T HAVE ANY PURPOSE AT ALL NOW.

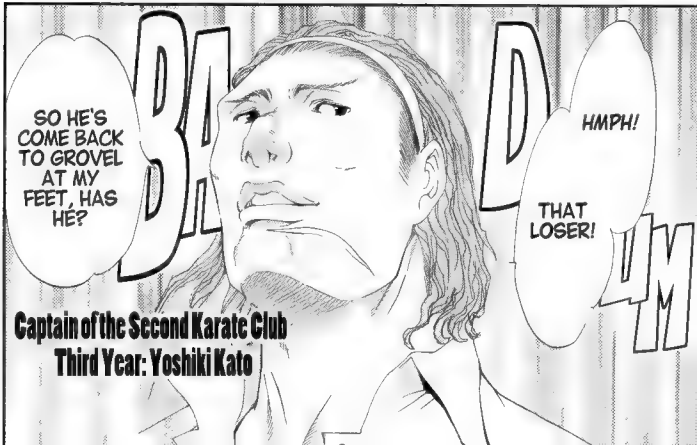

THE SCHOOL'S IN ANARCHY.
THAT COULD BE FUN TOO.


GRAB
YOU...
...ASS...
...
HOLES
...
WAH!
GWOOF!

I LOOKED EEEEVERY-WHERE FOR YOU.
OW!
DUDE! YOUR PITS!!
STANK!
AAALL NIGHT.

I THOUGHT THEY HAD A FALLING OUT.
NOT THAT THEY LOOK ALL THAT FRIENDLY.
TWITCH
TWITCH
TAKE MY ARMPIT BEAM OF RAGE!!
GYA
DANGLE
DANGLE
FLAIL
FLAIL
NO SHIT!
I JUST DID FIFTY SQUATS, SO THEY'RE STEAMING!

SHIN CAME BACK.


SO HE'S COME BACK TO GROVEL AT MY FEET, HAS HE?
HMPH!
THAT LOSER!
Captain of the Second Karate Club
Third Year: Yoshiki Kato

BUT THAT WAS JUST BEGINNER'S LUCK.
HMPH!
A VIRGIN NOOB WITHOUT ANY REAL PASSION.
SLIGHTLY, MY ASS...
I'LL ADMIT I'M SLIGHTLY INFERIOR IN TERMS OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
TOTAL-LY.
YOU'RE NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO TALK AFTER HIS LITTLE SISTER BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF YOU.
Bun-shichi's a cripple.
And Taka-yanagi's a coward now.
SINCE THE KATANA CLUB JUST DISBANDED, THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL BE ABLE TO GATHER FIVE PEOPLE POWERFUL ENOUGH.
AND THE CHAIRMAN CAN ONLY BE CHOSEN IF A CLUB SENDS FIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO FIGHT FOR THE ELECTION.
TO STAND AT THE TOP OF THIS SCHOOL, YOU NEED TO BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.
HMPH.
HUH?
FREEZE
THEY'RE SAYING NATSUME'S STARTING THE CLUB OVER FROM SCRATCH.
HE ONLY SCRAPPED KATANA TO BUILD A NEW ONE IN ITS PLACE.
OHH YEAAAH!
AT LAST, THE DAY HAS COME WHEN I TAKE OVER THE WORLD!!
YES!!
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S OUT!
UH, ABOUT THAT...
STOMP

IT SEEMS THIS TIME HE'S MAKING A GENUINE MARTIAL ARTS CLUB.
YEAH, BUT I HEARD IT TOO.
A WASTE OF TIME.
HMPH!
H... HMPH!
I DOUBT IT'LL BE ANY REAL THREAT.
HE'S TOO LATE...
LILILH.
I THINK HE'S CALLING IT THE...

柔剣部
...JUKEN CLUB.
SWF

*CAPTAIN SHIN NATSUME

*MITSUOMI TAKAYANAGI

LOOK, I'M NO FAN OF JOINING A CLUB WHERE YOU CAN GET HURT.
And my last injuries haven't even healed yet.
I'M JUST PUTTING MY NAME DOWN. NOTHING MORE, GOT IT?
*BUNSHICHI TAWARA
WE NEED TWO MORE PEOPLE.
YOU GOT ANYONE IN MIND?
NAH.
I'LL TAKE ANYONE.
SO LONG AS WE THREE CAN WIN, THERE WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
I told you I was only putting my name down, that's all.
YOU'RE AS COCKY...
GRIN
...AS EVER.

NOM
NOM
TMP

TMP
TMP
TMP
NATSUME. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS CLUB YOU'RE APPARENTLY PUTTING TOGETHER...
BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE.
THIS DOJO IS SHARED BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND KARATE CLUBS.
Vice-Captain of the First Karate Club
Third Year: Kenjiro Iwaki

JUST WHERE DO YOU PLAN ON HANGING THAT PLAQUE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW THE SCHOOL RULES.
ANSWER ME.
HA!
THEN QUIT...
...RUNNING YOUR MOUTH, IWAKI!
柔剣
I'D SAY THERE'S ABOUT FORTY...OR FIFTY OF THEM. THIS'LL BE A BREEZE WITH THE THREE OF US.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M NOT GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS.
IF YOU GUYS WANNA FIGHT, THEN YOU HANDLE IT.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS PLAQUE, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT FROM ME.
JUST LIKE I'M ABOUT TO TAKE THIS DOJO FROM YOU!
TODO IS A FIGHTER'S PARADISE.
Can we kill him, boss?
Do it.
WHOAAAA

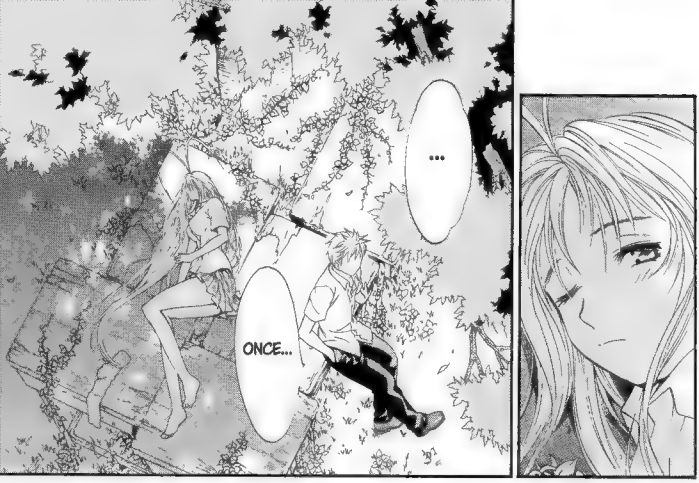
DIRECT SKIN ARMPIT BEAM!
GRIK
SUPER SPECIAL DANGER-OUS...
GYAAAAH!!
GRIK AAARGH! GRIK

HAH
HOW DARE YOU SNEAK IN HERE TO STAKE YOUR CLAIM BEHIND THE GREAT KATO'S BACK!!
WHAAAAT?!

BAM
bastard!
BOOM
YOU GUYS JOIN THE FIGHT TOO, SECOND CLUB!!
YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!
DON'T FUCK WITH US!

BANG
RATTLE
BANG
RATTLE

PAT
PAT
NOOOOOOAH!
*JUKEN CLUB
*FIRST KARA-
...
BUT IT'S A LITTLE BIG FOR ONLY THREE PEOPLE TO USE.
WELL, WE'VE SECURED A LOCATION FOR THE CLUB.
...FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE PERSON.
I HAVE AN IDEA...


...
ONCE...

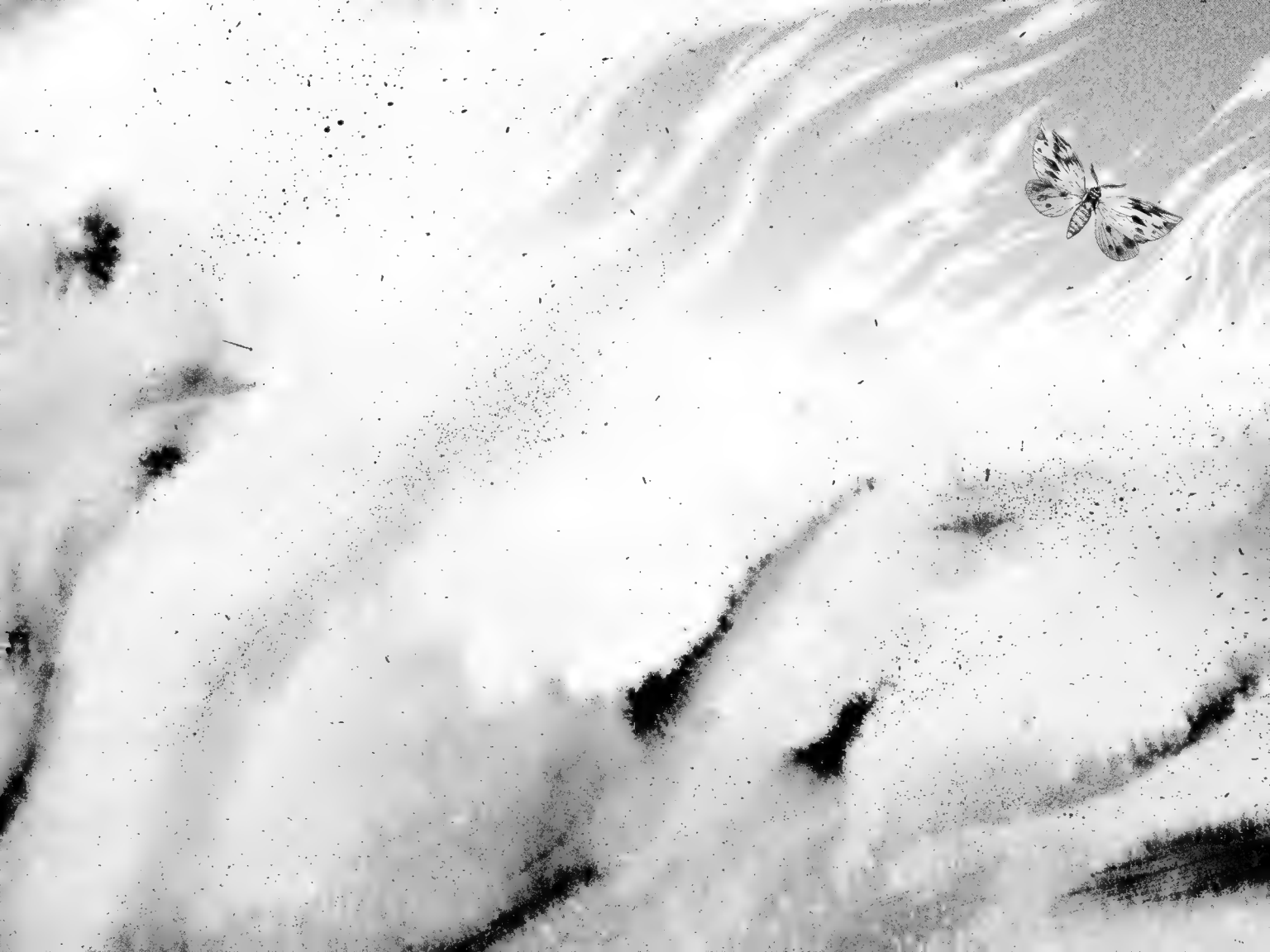
BUT THAT WAS A LIE.
I SAID THAT THERE WAS NO WAY I'D EVER WANT TO FIGHT SHIN.

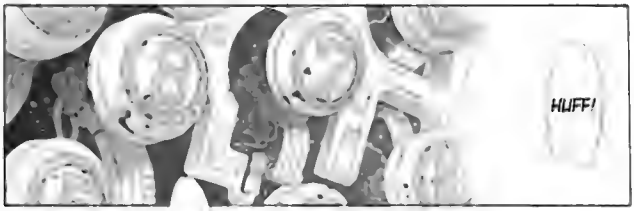
THE TRUTH IS...
...IT'S PROBABLY THE ONE FIGHT I WISH FOR MORE THAN ANY OTHER.

BUT NOT OUT OF FEAR.
...
MY HANDS ARE STILL SHAKING.
IT'S THE EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION OF THE BATTLE.
HEH HEH.
I SWEAR.
I'M REALLY PSYCHED RIGHT NOW.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HEY!
OH, WOULD YOU SHUT UP ALREADY?
I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE.
KEEP IT DOWN.
Can't a girl catch a nap?

FIGHT:38

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
BACK THEN, MY BROTHER...
...HAD NOTHING INSIDE HIM.
HUFF!
HUFF!
...THE DESIRE FOR POWER. IT WAS ALIVE AND WELL WITHIN HIM.
ONLY...




HUFF!

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

D
B
F
C
E
F
READY
SET
5
8
3
12
1
POSITION:5
E
15
4
A
20
F
13
G
24
F
8
I
3
A
15
E
1
2
C
1

IT'S TRAINING TO HONE HIS REFLEXES AND IMPRINT A PATTERN OF ATTACKS IN HIS MIND.
HE'S DOING QUITE WELL TODAY.

THE POSITION DENOTES THE STYLE.
THE LETTERS INDICATE WHERE TO PLACE HIS FEET.
THE NUMBERS, WHERE TO PLACE HIS PUNCHES.

WELL, THE ACCURACY OF THIS SYSTEM COMPARED TO THOSE IS...
MASTER DOGEN?

HMPH!
CRACK

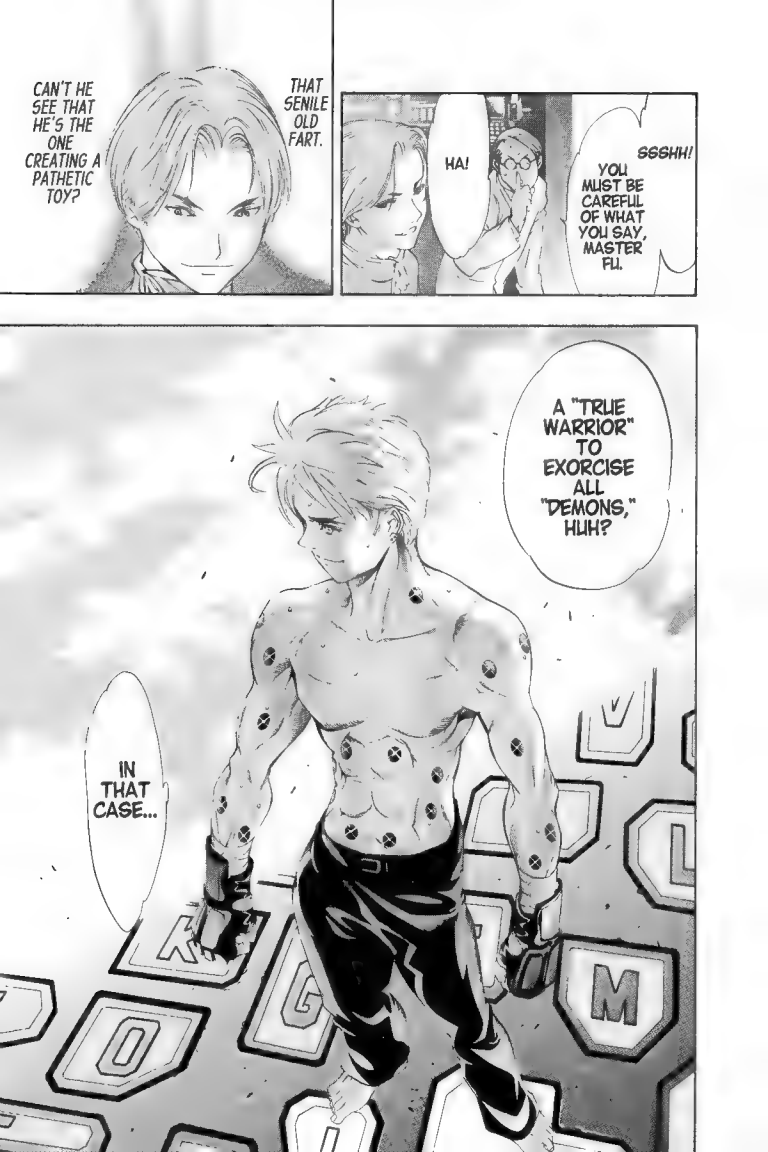
TMP
WHAT A PATHETIC TOY.
I'VE SEEN THINGS LIKE THIS IN THE GAME ARCADES.

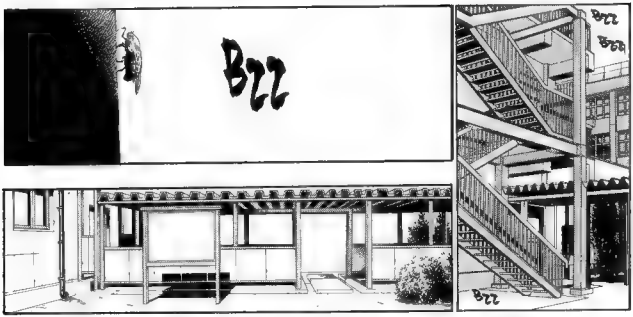
I WILL SAY NOTHING MORE OF YOUR CHOICE OF METHOD.
I'M LEAVING YOU IN CHARGE OF THIS MATTER.
FU CHI'EN.
30
...THE TRUE WARRIOR.
SOMEDAY SOON, TO SEE THE COMPLE-TION OF...
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I WANT.

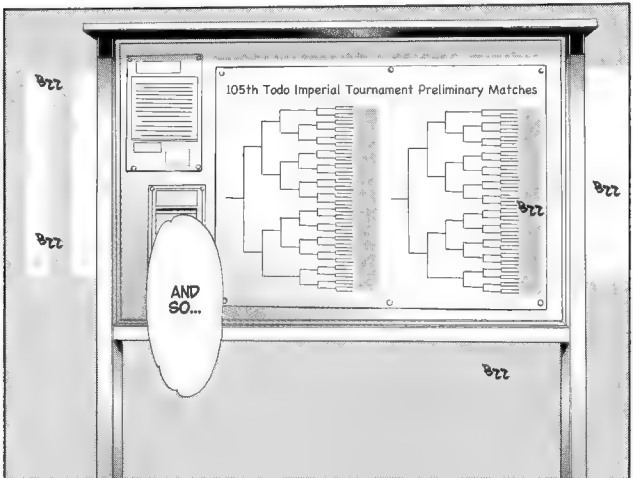
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

HMPH ...
IT MAKES HIS RECENT SLUMP SEEM LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS EVEN IN MY HOME COUNTRY.
THAT REACTION TIME AND ACCURACY... HE'S SCORED MOST IMPRESSIVELY, MASTER FU.

JUST PACKING "TALENT" INTO A SACK OF HUMAN FLESH...
WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT OLD MAN TRYING TO CREATE?


CAN'T HE SEE THAT HE'S THE ONE CREATING A PATHETIC TOY?
THAT SENILE OLD FART.
HA!
SSSHH! YOU MUST BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU SAY, MASTER FU.
A "TRUE WARRIOR" TO EXORCISE ALL "DEMONS," HUH?
IN THAT CASE...


B22


105th Todo Imperial Tournament Preliminary Matches
AND SO...
B22

FOR THREE DAYS STARTING ON THE 17TH OF JULY...
...WE WILL BE HOLDING THE PRELIMINARIES FOR THE IMPERIAL TOURNAMENT.
THIS IS THE BIGGEST EVENT OUR SCHOOL HOLDS.
THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE DECIDED BY IT, SO ALL PARTICIPANTS GIVE EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT...
'SCUSE ME.
I GOT A QUESTION.
THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T GET.

THE WAY THE OLDER KIDS KEEP MAKING IT SOUND, THIS PRELIMINARY MATCH THING PITS ALL THE MARTIAL ARTS CLUBS AGAINST EACH OTHER.
WHAT I DON'T GET IS...
QUIT DRAWING ATTENTION TO YOURSELF!
...WHAT ARE US KIDS WHO AREN'T IN THOSE CLUBS SUPPOSED TO DO?
TAKE ME FOR EXAMPLE. I'M A LOVER, NOT A FIGHTER.
SHUT UP.

BUT I GET THE FEELING IF I HAD TO FIGHT, I COULD BEAT EVERY KID IN THIS ROOM EASY!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH OR I'LL SHUT IT FOR YOU!
WHAT D YOU SAY, YOU STUPID HIPPY?

TOK
CREAK

THIS SCHOOL ATTRACTS ONLY THOSE PEOPLE OF THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY, CALIBER, AND VIRTUE.
HOW LITTLE WORMS LIKE YOU EVER SLIP IN, I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND.
IT'S SORTA FUNNY WHEN YOU FIND A CROW...
LOOOOOM
HUH?
...CAWING HIS HEAD OFF AMONG A FLOCK OF CRANES.
GROOOOOOO
UH...

...CAN UNIFY THIS SCHOOL, THEN GO AHEAD AND TRY, DIRTBAG.

STARTING TODAY, YOUR NAME IS DIRTBAG.

Got it, Dirtbag?

Answer me, Dirtbag!

YES, SIR ...

Y...

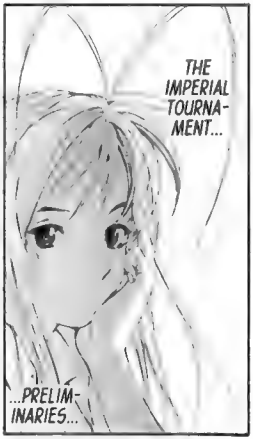
HMPH.

IF YOU THINK A GUTLESS PANSY LIKE YOU...

THUD

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
YOU LOOK SO SCARED.
I'll fuck you up
DON'T GET SO COCKY, DIRT-BAG.
YOU SEE A GIANT?

HMPH.
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.


THE IMPERIAL TOURNA-MENT...
...PRELIM-INARIES...

YO.
HEY.
DID YOU THINK ABOUT IT?
ABOUT JOINING THE CLUB.
WHAT DO YOU THINK...
...YOU'RE DOING?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME MY CLASS WAS JUST BELOW YOURS.
PERV.
WHATEVER. NOT LIKE HAVING YOU SEE MY PANTIES IS ANYTHING NEW.
YEAH, I'M PLENTY USED TO SEEING THEM.
The way you prance around.
HASSLING ME LIKE THIS WON'T CHANGE MY MIND.
I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR CLUB LIFE.
LET ALONE A CLUB THAT MY BROTHER PUT TOGETHER.

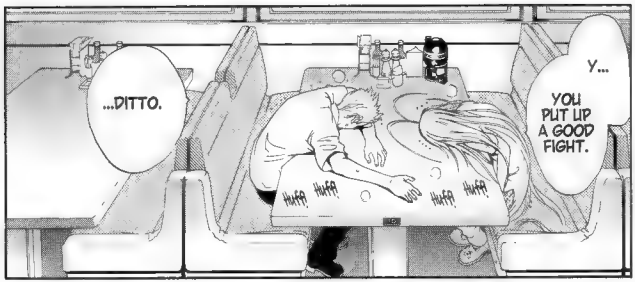
EVERY-BODY'S TOO SCARED TO JOIN.
HEH HEH
EVER SINCE THE KATANA CLUB COLLAPSED, SHIN'S REP HAS GONE DOWN THE DRAIN.
People see him like this.
COME ON, I'M BEGGING YOU.
HMPH!
NOT TO MENTION, YOU'RE SORTA RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.
I take that back. Not "sorta," you totally are.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO INSIST...
...THEN WHY NOT DUKE IT OUT WITH ME? TODO STYLE.
WITH THE CLUB ON THE LINE!
PERFECT.

READY
READY SET
KL NK
GO!!
人抜き
THOOM

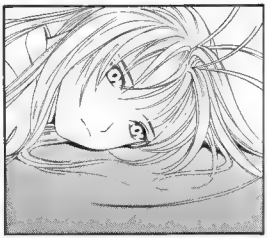
GAH...
SHIT. THIS GIRL KNOWS HER GAME!
HNGH!
HE'S GOOD!
...
FWSH
FWSH
FWSH
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK
YOU CHEATER! ACTING LIKE YOU'D NEVER PLAYED THIS GAME IN YOUR LIFE!
RIGHT BACK AT YOU! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING OUT TO ON THE DAYS YOU'RE NOT IN SCHOOL!
I'm not about to challenge the winner...
They're on fire
Whoa

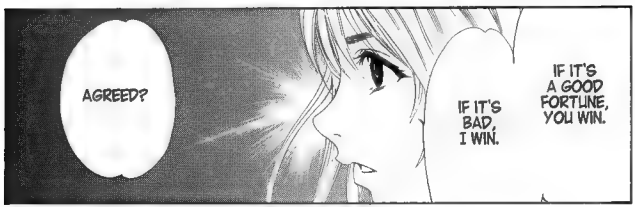
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR YOU TWO.
...TCH!
WE'LL CALL IT...A DRAW.
DEAL?
ALL RIGHT THEN!
NEXT, WE'LL HOLD A SING OFF!
JUST WHAT I WAS HOPING. FOR.

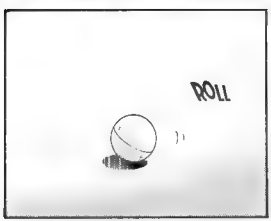
Make time alert!
Tone deaf!
Looks like another tie.
Oh, well.
PLAYER 1
PLAYER 2
I'LL SLICE THE BALL IN TWO WITH THE BAT.
POP
ME TOO. WATCH.
One person playing doubles?!
You sneaky little...!
Though I'm doing it too.
Like 20k— if you land up the finals diagonally, you get more points.
That is addictive
Aaargh!
SUE!


...DITTO.
HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF
Y...
YOU PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT.

LET'S DECIDE THE VICTOR WITH THIS FORTUNE RAFFLE.
I KNOW!
FINE BY ME.
HM.




AGREED?
IF IT'S BAD, I WIN.
IF IT'S A GOOD FORTUNE, YOU WIN.


ROLL

KSSH
SURE.

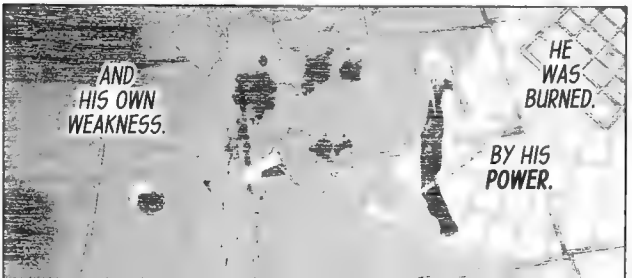
DO IT!
GRRRR
I'M GONNA OPEN IT NOW.

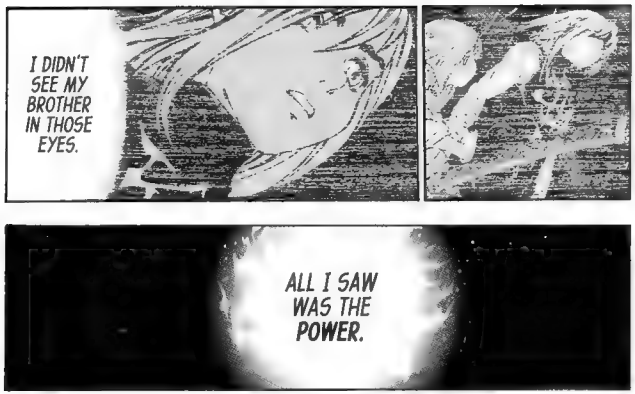
...
WHAT THE HELL? It's not valid if only one person sees the results.
AH!
PSSHT
HEEEY!
WE WERE SPLIT-TING THE BILL.
PAY UP.

SAY.
MITSU-OMI.
HM?
HAVE YOU EVER...
...KILLED ANYONE?
NO...
DON'T THINK I HAVE.
I THOUGHT AS MUCH.
ME NEITHER.

HA HA HA!
I thought you said you were used to it.
I CAN SEE YOUR PANTIES AGAIN.
CONSIDERING ALL THE FIGHTS I'M IN.
...IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER.
BUT...

HE MURDERED THEM.
AND THEY DIDN'T JUST DIE ON HIM.
...HAS.
MY BROTHER ...


AND HIS OWN WEAKNESS.
BY HIS POWER.
HE WAS BURNED.


I DIDN'T SEE MY BROTHER IN THOSE EYES.
ALL I SAW WAS THE POWER.

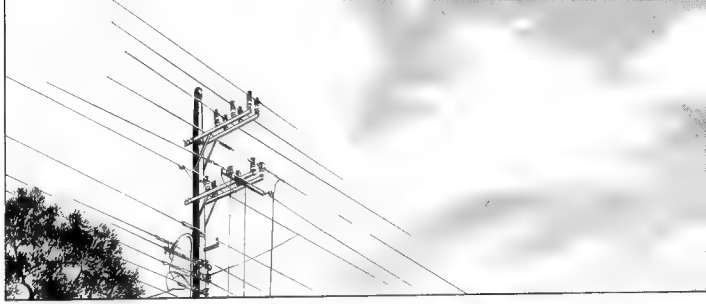
I'M...
...SO SCARED OF GETTING STRONGER I CAN BARELY TAKE IT.

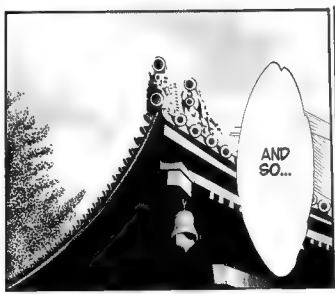
...YOU'RE ALSO PROBABLY SCARED OF STAYING STILL.
BUT...
ZWF ZWF
BECAUSE I'M MORE AFRAID OF LOSING SIGHT OF HIM.
I'M GOING.
CHSHH
...AND CHASE HIM DOWN.
SO I'LL TAKE ON PART OF YOUR LOAD...
YOU'VE HAD TO BEAR ALL KINDS OF BURDENS SO FAR.

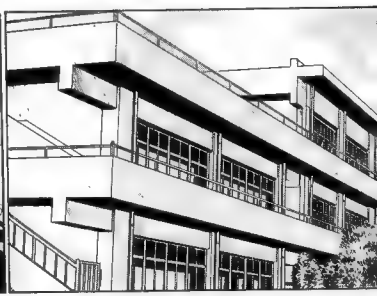
...WILL NEVER BE ALONE.
JUST AS HE...
NEITHER WILL YOU.

QUIT TRYING TO SOUND LIKE MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR.
HMPH.

FOOL.




AND SO...



...WE NEEDED THOSE EXTRA MEMBERS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.
WITH THE TOURNAMENT CLOSING IN NEXT WEEK...

BAM
Just be happy I'm even in your stupid club!
CRACK
You're supposed to be recruiting!!
BASH
BASH
!!

AND I...
I COULDN'T CONVINCE THEM IN THE END.
DID YOU FIND ANYONE?
This is getting ugly
...HAVEN'T BEEN RECRUITING ANYONE.
YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMEONE IN MIND, MITSUOMI.

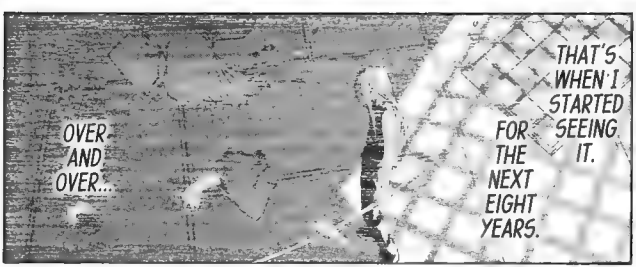
FIRST, AN OFFERING. THIS IS DIRTBAG FROM MY CLASS.
I BROUGHT HIM WITH ME BECAUSE HE SOUNDED LIKE HE WANTED TO GIVE THE TOURNAMENT A GO.
I had to twist his arm a little though.
POP
N...NICE TO MEET YOU.

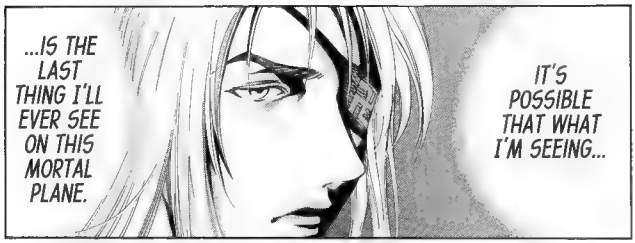
BUT THE BET'S STILL ON.
I'M JOINING THE CLUB FOR NOW.

...THAT WE CAN LET IT BE DECIDED BY SOME FORTUNE ON A PIECE OF PAPER.
OUR MATCH ISN'T SO TRIVIAL...

FIGHT:39

SHUDDERING


OVER AND OVER...
FOR THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS.
THAT'S WHEN I STARTED SEEING IT.


...IS THE LAST THING I'LL EVER SEE ON THIS MORTAL PLANE.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT WHAT I'M SEEING...

A DARK ANGEL FROM THE UNDERWORLD.

!!
DRAG
PUP
PUP
SPLISH

DRAG
DRAG
PLIP
PLIP
You did this to me.
How dare you...
...so selfishly try to save yourself.
GLARE
FATHER.
Such cowardice.
Don't you agree, Shin.
MOTHER.
PAT

Your soul...
...is brittle and ugly, like a rusted blade.
Even your scabbard is rotten.
GRIP
The sound of you unsheathing it makes my ears bleed.
SWISH
It doesn't cut...
...and yet hurts others in vain.
Soon it will cut you down too.
SHA
ST

I'M NOT GOING TO DIE!
I'M NOT GOING DOWN THAT EASY!
SHUT UP.
KRAK
KRAK
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
AAH!
WHOOSH

KLANG

CHIRP CHIRP
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ

...

SHE ALREADY LEFT FOR SCHOOL.
WHERE'S MAYA?
NOTHING.

WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
SHIN?

I BETTER GET GOING TOO.
I SEE.
...
SHIN...
SOME GUY ON A MOTORCYCLE GAVE HER A RIDE.
WHO WERE YOU...
...TALKING TO JUST NOW?
AYA, YOU...
YOU HEARD THEM TOO?
THOSE VOICES ?
?
WELL, YEAH.
...
I SEE.

105th Imperial Tournament
TODO ACADEMY
TODO ACADEMY

05th Imperial Tournamer

WHAT IF YOU'RE NOT FULLY HEALED?
NOT LIKE I'VE GOT A CHOICE.
WHAT-EVER.
YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO REMOVE THE CAST ALREADY ?
HERE WE GO.

WHOA!
Hrngh!
SM
ASH
OKAY, DON'T MOVE.
!!

GOOD DAY, MISS. ♡
OH.
GIVE IT A REST, DIRTBAG.
YO.
YOU WANNA GET KICKED OUT OF THE TOURNAMENT OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!!

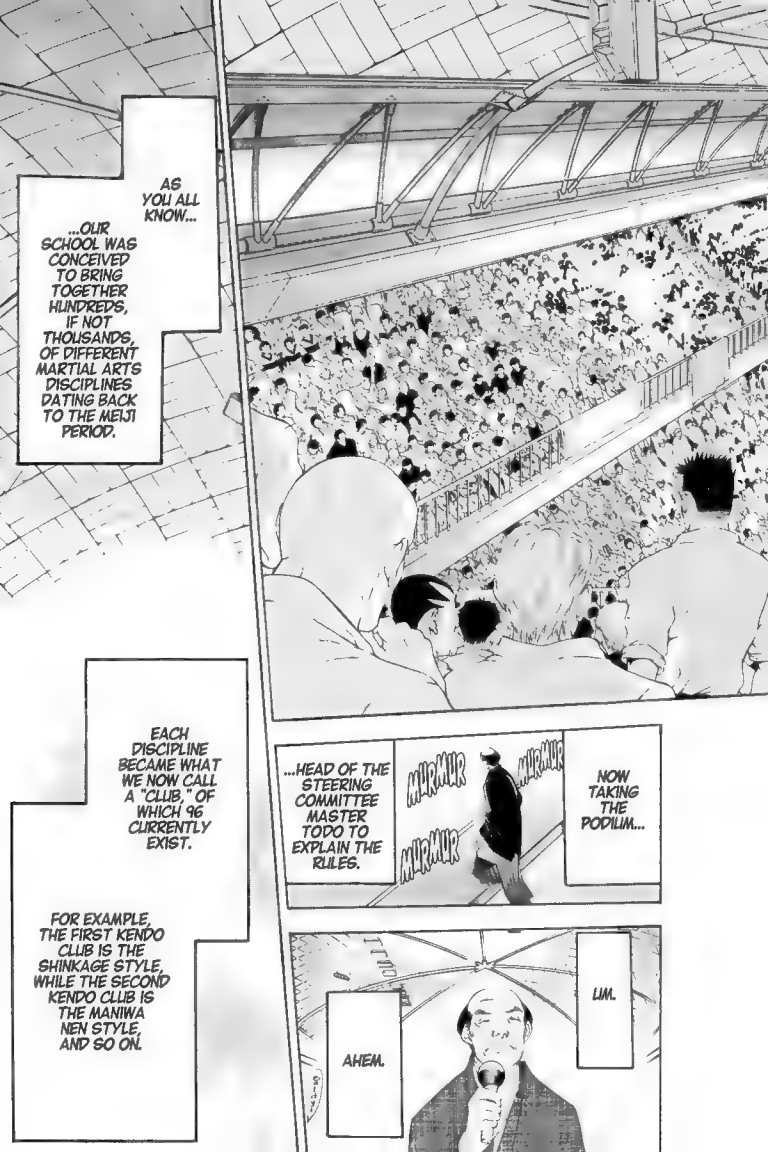
I WAS JUST THINKING IF I COULD KNOCK YOU OFF, THE TITLE OF STRONGEST IN TODO WOULD GO TO ME.
OH, NOTHING.
CREEP
CREEP
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
WH...

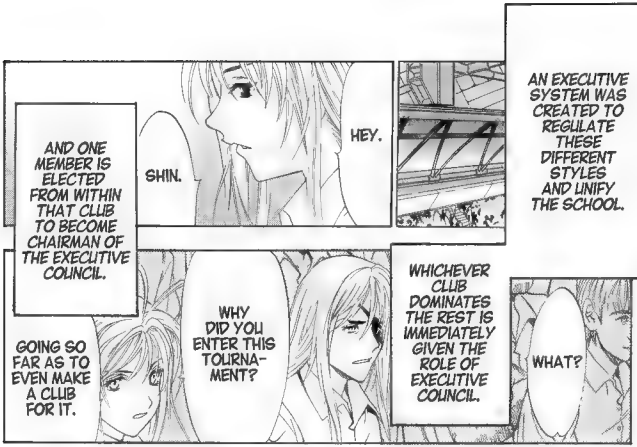
HEY.
MORNING.
HEY.
AH.
YO.

MAYA.
YOU PROBABLY THINK I OWE YOU OR SOMETHING, BUT...
...IF YOU TRY TO GET IN MY WAY, YOU'RE OUTTA THE CLUB INSTANTLY.
GOT IT?
FINE BY ME.

BUT THE SAME GOES FOR YOU.
IF I EVER GET THE CHANCE, I WON'T THINK TWICE ABOUT KILLING YOU IN YOUR SLEEP.
SO WATCH YOURSELF.
THESE TWO DON'T GET ALONG AT ALL.
OH? I DIS-AGREE.
IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT.
IT'S JUST A CASE OF WHAT THEY CALL MISCOMMUNI-CATION.
IF YOU LET IT GET TO YOU, YOU'LL LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.
Like me.
OKAY, GUYS.
LET'S GO!
MM-HM.
HELL YEAH!
OKAY.
RIGHT.
ZWF
Huh? But why?
Guys, if you could respond in unison we'd seem a lot more unified.

BEEEEP
ATTENTION, ATTENTION.
SO WHERE DO THE OTHER FIGHTS TAKE PLACE?
SHH!
CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER
ONLY THE FINAL FIVE MATCHES FIGHT THERE.
NO, DUMBASS.
WHOA, I HAD NO IDEA TODO HAD MODERN FACILITIES LIKE THIS.
SO WE'RE GONNA FIGHT DOWN THERE?


AS YOU ALL KNOW...
...OUR SCHOOL WAS CONCEIVED TO BRING TOGETHER HUNDREDS, IF NOT THOUSANDS, OF DIFFERENT MARTIAL ARTS DISCIPLINES DATING BACK TO THE MEIJI PERIOD.
EACH DISCIPLINE BECAME WHAT WE NOW CALL A "CLUB," OF WHICH 96 CURRENTLY EXIST.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE FIRST KENDO CLUB IS THE SHINKAGE STYLE, WHILE THE SECOND KENDO CLUB IS THE MANIWA NEN STYLE, AND SO ON.
...HEAD OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MASTER TODO TO EXPLAIN THE RULES.
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
NOW TAKING THE PODIUM...
AHEM.
LIM.


HEY.
SHIN.
AND ONE MEMBER IS ELECTED FROM WITHIN THAT CLUB TO BECOME CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.
AN EXECUTIVE SYSTEM WAS CREATED TO REGULATE THESE DIFFERENT STYLES AND UNIFY THE SCHOOL.
WHICHEVER CLUB DOMINATES THE REST IS IMMEDIATELY GIVEN THE ROLE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.
WHAT?
WHY DID YOU ENTER THIS TOURNA-MENT?
GOING SO FAR AS TO EVEN MAKE A CLUB FOR IT.

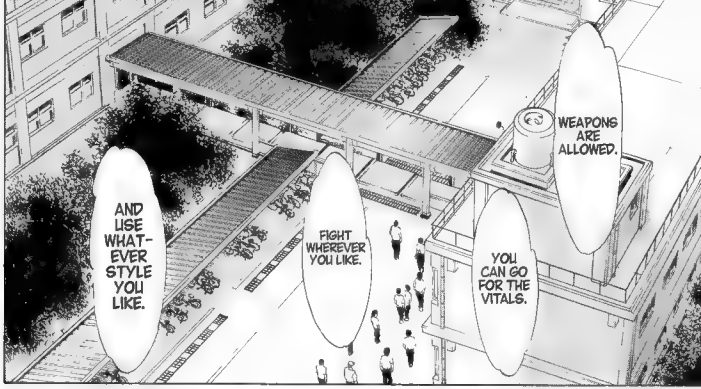
AS IF.
IDIOT.
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE AIMING TO BE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN.
IT'S SO UPTIGHT AND RIGID.
THE WAY WE DETERMINE THE WINNERS AND LOSERS HAS NOT CHANGED OVER THE PAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS.
FIVE FIGHTERS, CHOSEN FROM EACH CLUB....
THEN WHY?

...
...WILL PUT THEIR FAITH...

...AND PRIDE ON THE LINE!

...THERE'RE NO RULES.
IN OTHER WORDS.
EACH CLUB CHOOSES FIVE PEOPLE. OTHER THAN THAT...

HUH? WHAT THE HELL'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT.
IT'S JUST LIKE HE SAID.

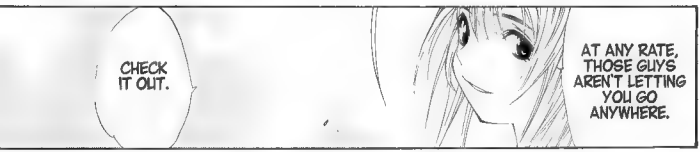

WEAPONS ARE ALLOWED.
YOU CAN GO FOR THE VITALS.
FIGHT WHEREVER YOU LIKE.
AND USE WHATEVER STYLE YOU LIKE.

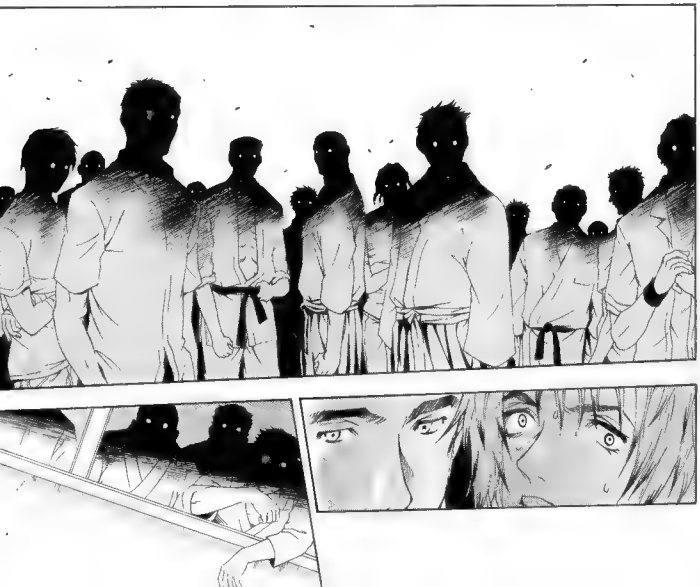
I THOUGHT WE COULD FIGHT WHOEVER WE WANTED.
WHAT A BORE.
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE FLYER?
WHO WE TAKE ON AND IN WHAT ORDER IS THE ONLY THING DECIDED BEFOREHAND.
THAT WOULDN'T BE A TOURNAMENT ANYMORE. IT'D BE A FREE-FOR-ALL SLAUGHTER.
This ain't no Battle Royale.

LAST YEAR WAS REALLY NUTS.
THE ARCHERY CLUB GOT UP ON THE ROOF TO SHOOT AT EVERYBODY.
WORRY WORRY
THEY MADE A PINCUSHION OUT OF THIS ONE GUY WITH BUSHY EYEBROWS WHO WAS TOO SLOW.

TH... THAT'S CRAZY !!
THIS IS JAPAN, ISN'T IT?!
AND WE'RE ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL!!

NO WAY YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE GETTING OFF SCOT FREE.
IF YOU TRY THAT AGAIN, I'LL NOOGIE YOU SO HARD YOU'LL GO BALD, GOT IT, DIRTBAG?
P-PLEASE LET ME GO!
MY STOMACH REALLY HURTS ALL OF A SUDDEN!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO...


CHECK IT OUT.
AT ANY RATE, THOSE GUYS AREN'T LETTING YOU GO ANYWHERE.



RSHHH
LOOKS LIKE THE BATTLE'S ALREADY BEGUN.

BINGO.
WOOP

THE FIVE DEMONS OF THE AKUTAGAWA NINJA CORPS.
WE'RE YOUR FIRST OPPONENTS.
YOU MAKE...
...ONE DOWN!

OOG!
BAM
CRUNCH
!!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
ZIP
ZIP
SL
WAH!

OOOH YEAH!
Woot!
ZING
JIGGLE
THIS TIME...
YOU'RE DEAD!
WHOK
TCH!
Stay focused, idiot!
BAM
!!

DOO
M

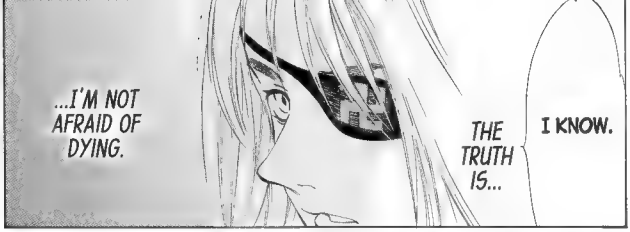
SPIN
WHI
AM
THP

WHO'S AN OLD FART?
Speak for yourself.
LEAVE IT TO THE KIDS THIS TIME.
US OLD FARTS CAN TAKE IT EASY.
...
PAT
SO THIS IS WHAT THE TOURNA-MENT'S ALL ABOUT.
I GET IT NOW.
Eek!
Last one left
THIS IS GONNA BE FUN!

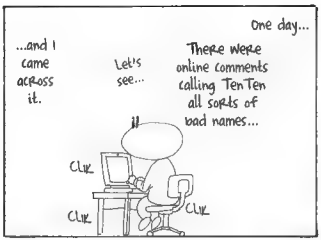
Wow! You were amazing!
Nothing less from the girl who beat me up!
IT HAS BEGUN.
228
228
228
228
228
228
...

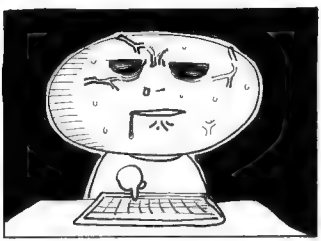
This is fate.
Shin.
...who could negate that power and your entire existence.
The one...
This is what you wanted.
To save your cursed soul.
The birth of the man with the power of a true warrior.

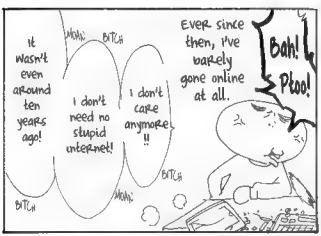
RIGHT. SORRY.
I KNOW THAT.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT GET NAILED FROM BEHIND.
DON'T SPACE OUT LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SWF
SWF
PAT
JOLT

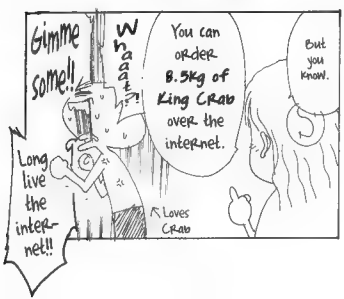

...I'M NOT AFRAID OF DYING.
THE TRUTH IS...
I KNOW.

BUT I CAN'T LET HIM TAKE AWAY...
...EVERY-THING I CHERISH.









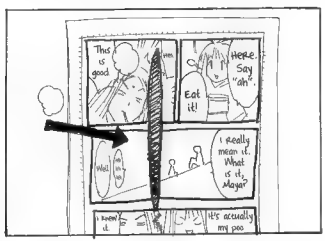
Gure-Kichi's Bonus Manga

Where oh where have our main characters gone...?
And...
Aw man, I've become a doting parent. But he's just so darn cute!

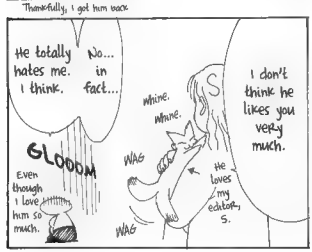
The Harry Diary

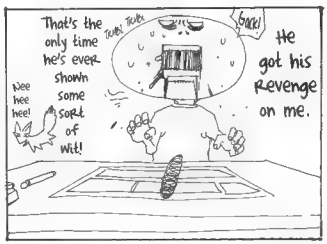
He's absolutely adorable. But... he's got a brain the size of a peanut.
Recently, I've welcomed a fennec fox into my family. His name is Harry.
WAG
WAG

I really let him have it and scolded him bad, but...
Ugh!
He always forgets to do his business in the litter box.
If I ever leave him alone, he leaves his droppings all over the place.
Yipe!
Yipe!

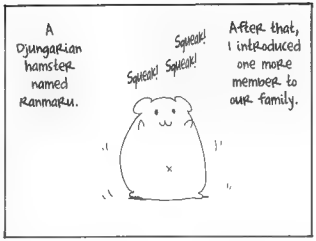


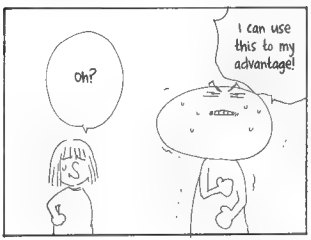
Thankfully, I got him back

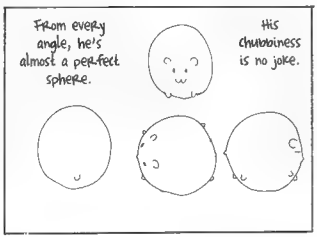


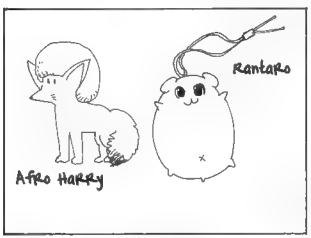


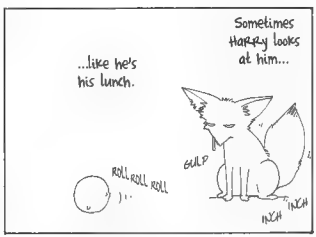
GASP!
...it suddenly hit me.
One day, while I was watching the two of them do their thing...

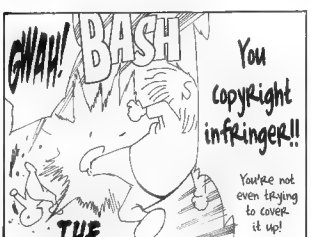

A Djungarian hamster named Ranmaru.
Squeak! Squeak! Squeak!
After that, I introduced one more member to our family.


Oh?
I can use this to my advantage!


From every angle, he's almost a perfect sphere.
His chubbiness is no joke.

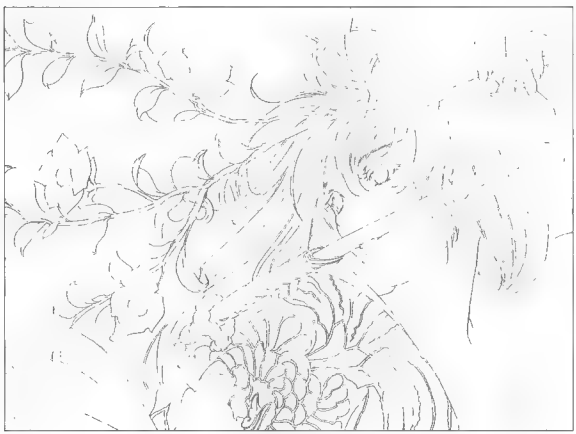

Ranmaru
Afro Harry


Sometimes Harry looks at him...
...like he's his lunch.
ROLL ROLL ROLL
GULP
NOM NOM


GWAH!
BASH
You copyright infringer!!
You're not even trying to cover it up!
THE END!!

You're not actually going to let Harry eat him, are you?
I bought him to satisfy his instincts, after all.
Not that I mind.
FLAP
FLAP

THANKS FOR READING!



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A compilation of the serialization
that ran in *Ultra Jump* Magazine
from Novemper 2000 to April 2001.

Just like in the real world, there are no main characters in this manga. And no, that's not an excuse for why neither Nagi nor Bob show up even once in this whole volume (LOL).

END
VOLUME 3
PART 2

Oh!great began his career as a professional manga creator in 1995. In 1997 his hit series *Tenjo Tenge* started running in *Ultra Jump* magazine, and in 2004 it was adapted into a TV anime. *Air Gear*, which began serialization in *Weekly Shonen Magazine* in 2002, received a Kodansha Manga Award in 2006 and was also adapted into a TV anime.

Tenjo Tenge
Volume 3

ViZ Signature Edition

Story & Art by Oh!great

Translation & Adaptation/Katherine Schilling
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Steve Dutro
Cover & Graphic Design/Sam Elzway
Editor/Mike Montesa

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
TENJO TENGE is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers. This volume contains graphic violence, strong language, nudity, sexual situations, gratuitous panty shots, a ridiculous amount of ass-kicking, anatomically improbable cleavage, and people behaving really, really badly. If you're letting your kids read this, what's wrong with you?
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